

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

THE POLITICS OF CHRISTIANITY No. VIII.

LETTER INTERPRETED BY SPIRIT.

WE have done with the OBJECT of Civil Government—its STRUCTURE claims notice from us now. The design of the machine having been ascertained, we pass on, in natural order, to inspect the nature of the machinery. We are to learn, if possible, what Christianity teaches on that head.

Let us, then, start with as clear an understanding as may be of what we are about to look after. It is obvious that the worth of our conclusions will be very mainly dependent upon the character of our aim. If, for example, we strain ingenuity to discover in the system of revealed truth, intimations which, when torn from their natural connexion, and pieced together, may furnish us with a complete Scriptural model of civil government, we may spend on the task prodigious labour without finding any adequate reward in its results. The steam-engine will be searched for in vain amongst the objects of nature. The various contrivances by which its movements are adjusted, are exclusively of human origin, although suggested in certain particulars, it may be, by natural phenomena. But, as in the case of the steam-engine, a thorough acquaintance with the laws of the material world, may throw much light upon the fitness of the mechanism to accomplish the ends intended by it, so a correct knowledge and application of the principles of Christianity, may help us to a sound judgment on the value of the several forms into which man's wisdom or folly has thrown civil governments. Now, something like this is what we are about to attempt, in a few following papers. We shall bring under the consideration of our readers certain moral laws, found in Divine revelation, in perfect harmony with which all forms of State-rule ought to be framed.

There is, we suspect, a vague feeling abroad, that Christianity has directly sanctioned, or proscribed, certain systems for the civil government of mankind. The "divine right" of monarchs, rejected now by the understanding, has still a home in the sentiments, of British Christians. The loyalty which covers with a veil of charity the immoralities of a Court, or the oppressive tendencies of a Cabinet, is by not a few identified with religion. Hereditary authority to make the laws of a country is looked on as sacred. Republicanism is believed to be replete with infidelity—and even Chartism is shrunk from as impious. Now, it is not a little important that we should get a settled conviction upon our minds, that all such conclusions as those to which we have adverted, are essentially Jewish—they are gathered from an economy of forms—they belong to that class of things which one of the largest-hearted exponents of the new faith has not scrupled to characterise as "beggarly elements"—they are the fitting bonds with which for those men to fetter themselves, who addict themselves to the "letter," in opposition to the "spirit." Absolutism, constitutional monarchy, government by representation, aristocracy, chartism, republicanism—as mere forms of civil rule, are all alike to preceptive Christianity. This is not more scriptural than that—that, than any other. All are human contrivances, more or less adapted to answer the end in view—mere mechanism put together by man's ingenuity. In particular conditions of society, and at special junctures, each may be found superior to the others—none can claim for itself as a form divine authority.

Why, then, it may be asked, consult Christianity

upon the subject at all? Why seek a response from the oracle when you know already that upon the subject mooted it is dumb? Why intimate that you will ascertain what revelation teaches on a question respecting which you admit that revelation says nothing? Softly! softly, gentle reader—and we will furnish you with an answer.

In olden times, as you well know, knowledge was transmitted from one generation to another by means of manuscript. Books, accordingly, were few and dear. Men possessed of more than one volume were singularly favoured. Rich indeed was he who could boast of a library containing twelve. In due time printing succeeded writing—the pen was supplanted by the press. Imagine, now, a controversy to have arisen, as to the scriptural lawfulness of the new method of fixing and transmitting human ideas. Imagine religious men contending for the divine sanction given in the Bible to the simpler, earlier, and more elaborate mode of transferring the product of mind to paper. Should we not be right in saying that, considered merely as different methods of doing the same thing, Christianity knows nothing of them, and that writing with a style on vellum, or with a goose-quill on paper, or with fixed or moveable type by means of the printing press, are matters, in themselves considered, about which it is supremely indifferent? And yet, having said this, might we not gain some light in reference to the comparative superiority of the one to the other by taking into account some of the leading characteristics of revealed truth—the obligations it imposes, the motives it seeks to excite, the ends it is designed to attain, the means by which it will compass them, the deep interest which all have in its blessings, the responsibility of each to all for diffusing them—might not these and many kindred topics peculiar to Christianity be urged to prove that the adaptation of the printing press to multiply the means of knowledge, and add wings to those who proclaim the everlasting Gospel, places it under the special sanction of Christianity? And should man's genius hereafter discover some method of reaching the same end by means as superior to the steam press as the steam press is to the pen, might not the same considerations avail to recommend the immediate substitution of the more for the less efficient instrument? Thus, while Scripture is dumb on the question of machinery, it yet abounds with instruction which, wisely applied, may teach us how and why to prefer this form above that, and in what circumstances to be thankful for either.

The case of civil government is precisely analogous. They who contend for one form of government as having the sanction of revelation rather than another, because it is the form commonly met with in sacred history, might just as reasonably esteem writing on parchment a more religious act than printing on paper. The last decision would not be a trifle more absurd than the first. We affirm that Christianity recognises no form of government, as such—denounces none. Yet does it contain great principles of equity, justice, and benevolence—teach important truths respecting man's nature, position, and destiny—impose weighty obligations of individual and social morality—and proceed upon the recognition of elementary laws affecting our discipline as responsible and immortal beings—all of which may help us to determine whether the machinery of civil government, as constructed in our own times, is in unison with the objects and spirit of Divine revelation. We are to look at the structure, not with a view to pronounce which form—this or that—is Scriptural—but, bearing in mind what Christianity is, and what it purports to do, we are to fill our hearts with those its instructions, which will best qualify us to judge of any, and every form which may come before us. And this will be our plan in the few papers which follow.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—A paragraph has been going the round of the journals, stating that "the committee of the British Anti-state-church Association have chosen as their secretary Mr. Middleton Hare, one of the editors of the *Patriot*." The fact is, that Mr. Hare was appointed one of the original honorary secretaries at the formation of the society; and that, when it was resolved by the Triennial Conference, in last May, to appoint a salaried officer, the offer of the secretaryship was made, in the first instance, in the most handsome manner, to Mr. Hare, but was respectfully and gratefully declined. The gentleman who has since been appointed to the office is Mr. John Carville Williams, whose intelligence, activity, and business talents are well known to our friends in the east of London. Mr. Cockshaw will retain his present appointment.—*Patriot*.

STATE EDUCATION IN CANADA.

We have already made our readers acquainted with the bill lately brought before the Canadian legislature for dividing the University property, originally belonging to the nation, amongst the Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Colleges. Since then, another measure connected with public education has been introduced, "to amend the Common School Act of Upper Canada," which appears to be part and parcel of the same retrograde and nefarious policy. The *Toronto Banner*, of August 20th, characterizes it as "a Bill of disfranchisement—a Bill of pains and penalties on every town in Upper Canada;" and it thus describes the change which it would introduce:—

By the Act at present in operation, the inhabitants of each school district are empowered to elect three trustees, in whom is vested the management of the funds, the fixing of the salaries, and the general regulation of each school. The body of trustees is (by the bill) entirely abolished, and the power of managing the whole common schools of every city and town is to be vested in a board of seven, appointed by each city council, or board of police where no council has yet been formed; the mayor, or police president, is always to be chairman of this board, which will be a mere delegation of the council, or police board. This is a retrograde movement in legislation—not an advance. It is true that the members of Councils and boards are chosen by the citizens; but many returned for town councillors are quite unsuitable for school trustees. There are fifteen school districts in Toronto, for instance, and forty-five trustees. These forty-five are all set aside without ceremony, and the same is done in every town in Canada West, and their powers are transferred to the said board of seven. The popular system of school election is thus knocked on the head.

But there are other serious objections. The concentration of power in the Town Council destroys the ward system in the control of schools. The town wards of Upper Canada are so constructed, and the people have been so long under the influence of Tory mismanagement, that a majority of that faction sit in the Town Councils. The majority will, in all cases, have the choice of every School Board. Who can doubt, that they will, generally, fill up the Board from their own number, or from their devoted adherents? Now, the ward system enables men of different political views to be chosen trustees; but henceforth there is an obvious presumption that this concentrated Board will be all of one kind. To render the Disfranchisement Bill more remarkable—to add insult to the injury it inflicts on the inhabitants—the Board has power to appoint a Committee of three "for the special management of the affairs of each school."

If this is intended to represent the ghost of the disfranchised trustees, the deception must be seen by every one. These Committees have no power whatever. Article 5th of the bill conveys the whole power to the Board of seven. The first clause vests all the property in them; the second gives them the power of building and repairing school-houses; the third authorizes them to appoint the teachers, fix their salaries, regulate all the expenses of the school for books and other articles; the fourth enables them to fix the compensation and duties of the superintendent; the sixth sums up all, by giving them the full powers of Common School Trustees. What the Committees are to do, when the whole duties are all already engrossed by those who appoint them, we cannot conceive. They are subject to "rules and regulations" laid down by the Board; but what use there can be for any such, when the bill is as silent about their duties as it is about their rights, no man can possibly discover. If one individual can be found in Canada to lend himself as a tool to screen the iniquity of this penal bill, by becoming a member of committee, we shall be astonished;—no, not astonished; we mean to be astonished at nothing hereafter.

There is not the slightest reason for depriving the inhabitants of towns of the direct election of their school trustees. It is the most natural and desirable mode of election. All that the present system wanted, was some active central force; some meetings of the trustees in a mass, once or twice a year, an annual examination of the pupils, and a report, to be laid before the public. But this would not suit our Tory legislators—the people must be disfranchised.

But the worst is yet to be told. This bill is the entering wedge of a dominant and bigoted sectarianism or Churchism, the end of which is not yet. Clause 3rd of the 5th head, enables the trustees to

"Determine the number, sites, and description of schools which shall be established and maintained in such city and town aforesaid, and whether such school or schools shall be denominational or mixed."

Thus has the Common School system of Canada received its death-blow by the hands of the Canadian Parliament. Our school-board of Toronto—the seven wise men of the West, with Mr. Mayor Bouton in the chair—may, in a few days, determine, that the fifteen common schools of this city are all to be Episcopalian. Our existing system recognized no denominational schools, except when a certain number of Roman Catholics, or a certain number of Protestants, apply for a separate school; and the trustees had no discretion in the matter, but were bound to walk by the law. Here, every council and every police board can convert the whole schools into whatever denomination or denominations they please. We know well the use which will be made of this power.

The high-church party of Upper Canada, which monopolizes the offices, and has acquired much of the property of the country, will use this clause to get the children within their grasp. The scheme is deeply laid. We have, first,

the means; the people must be disfranchised, and the trustees set aside. That is done. Next we have the end. The schools must be *sectarianized*; and the bill also provides for that. The present Ministers seem bound in a league to try the patience of the people of Canada. It is sickening to see such despotic measures in the present day; but it will be more sickening still, if the voice of two millions of people be not soon heard, proclaiming that they will endure these inflictions no longer; for they seem only the heavier, in proportion to the patience and loyalty with which they are endured.

It is unnecessary to add any comment to this plain exposure of so iniquitous a measure. Such are the tendencies of State Education!

THE DUTIES OF THE LEGISLATURE IN REFERENCE TO RELIGION.

(From the *Churchman's Review* for September.)

It is daily becoming more and more evident that the whole question of the relation of the State to the Church, and of the duties of civil governors in matters of religion, must occupy a large share in the attention of the Parliament just elected.

At the very opening of the session there will be forced upon the members a discussion as to the propriety of admitting Jews—professed impugnors of Christianity—into a participation in the powers and functions of legislators. The affirming such a proposition puts an end, of course, to all idea of England's being "a Christian nation," or of the Legislature's having any duties connected with the Christian religion. To admit a Jew into Parliament is clearly tantamount to giving up a Church Establishment altogether. . . .

A third topic, which cannot much longer be left in doubt, is that of church-rates. The decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, that such rates may be made by a minority of the parish, is already bearing fruit; and it is extremely probable that the Dissenters themselves, when pressed by the law, will force the question on the consideration of Parliament.

Thus, in a variety of ways, there is the greatest probability of a necessity arising for the serious discussion of the vast question—whether the State is to be any longer a Christian State or not? and, if it is, on what footing it is to be placed.

Clearly every approach towards Liberalism makes it more and more difficult for any one to say what is the real character belonging to the British nation as such. And it cannot much longer be left in doubt.

If England is not a Christian nation, then the idea of professing to support a Church Establishment is plainly absurd; but if it *be*, then the principle of a Church Establishment must be more intelligibly and thoroughly carried out.

During the last twenty years, the movements of Parliament have been strangely embarrassed by the uncertainty and obscurity hanging over the language and actions of the Whig leaders. They have desired to occupy the post of champions of "Civil and Religious Liberty," and often they have placed themselves at the head of the Dissenters, and have appeared to be actuated by the same motives, and governed by the same principles. In the recent case of the City of London election, we had a notable instance of this. Lord John Russell warmly espoused the cause of the Jew candidate, Mr. Rothschild; using this language: "I maintain that there ought to be no disqualification for civil office, or for holding seats in Parliament, on account of religious opinions."

And in taking this position, and maintaining this principle, his Lordship was warmly seconded by the whole body of the Dissenters of the City of London. Yet those Dissenters were at the same moment in vehement opposition to Lord John Russell himself; and were holding meetings and passing resolutions, denouncing him as unworthy of their support! How was this? His Lordship prided himself on being one of the chief supporters of "the principles of Civil and Religious Liberty." They, on the other hand, declared him to be "one of the greatest enemies to the cause of Civil and Religious Liberty." Which party was in error, or how came such a total discrepancy of view to exist? We are compelled to say, that in our view, the error was Lord John Russell's. We conceive that the Dissenters had at least a compact and consistent view, however erroneous in its fundamental principle; while his Lordship's system "went upon three legs,"—to use one of Dr. Arnold's phrases.

This principle (Lord John Russell's) can only be practically applied by denuding Parliament, and all "civil officers," of all religious functions or duties, and of all patronage and influence connected with religion.

At present Parliament is continually making ecclesiastical regulations; dividing and uniting sees, apportioning Church revenues, and the like.

The Chancellor appoints the clergy of eight hundred parishes; the Prime Minister, in effect, creates all the bishops; the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster exercises ecclesiastical patronage; the Secretaries of State have many Chaplaincies at their disposal. Now, the whole of this system evidently presupposes an unity and sympathy between these functionaries and the Church over which they bear sway. Clearly, the idea of a majority of Romanists, Dissenters, and Jews, creating and controlling bishoprics in the Church, is altogether intolerable. Equally so is that of a Jewish Lord Chancellor, or a Romanist Secretary of State, appointing the clergy of hundreds of parishes, and the chaplains of many colonies—hating, all the while, the religion he was thus assisting to propagate.

He (Lord John Russell) surely dreams that he can have a Pantheistic Legislature, and yet an Established Church! The Dissenters know better, and hence we designate their scheme a more complete and practical one than his Lordship's.

NUMERICAL STATE OF WESLEYANISM.—From the returns just published of the number of members in the Wesleyan Society, it appears there are in Britain 339,379, being a decrease upon last year of 2,098; in Ireland, 24,633, being a decrease of 2,913; and in the foreign stations, 100,303, being an increase of 253; total number of members under the care of the British and Irish Conferences, 464,315, being a decrease of 4,749.

CHURCH-RATES.—On Thursday, the 16th instant, a vestry meeting of the rate-payers of the parish of St. Austell, Cornwall, was held in the Town-hall, pursuant to notice, for the purpose of making a rate or assessment for the repairs of the Church, &c. The vicar of the parish took the chair, and opened the meeting by reading the notice announced in the handbill, and some points of law from the decision of the judges, as given by Lord Denman, on the 8th of February, 1847. One of the rate-payers then read a paper to the effect, that any resolution which might be put by the Chairman, as to the proposed rate, should be made both affirmatively and negatively, which the Chairman refused. The vicar then remarked, that the vestry was called not to make a rate, but to determine as to the amount and proportions of the same, which (after having conferred with the churchwardens) he said, would be £160, which a twopenny rate would realize. The particulars of the said estimate being called for, the Chairman went over the various items of the rate from the parish accounts. After much opposition to the rate, by the majority of the vestry, who maintained that the rate was not only unjust and oppressive, but also decidedly illegal, as made by a minority, it was declared to be made without being put to the vote. The Chairman then signed the rate in the Church-book, which had been previously prepared, passing it to the churchwardens for their signature, and a few other parishioners. The vicar then left the meeting, after refusing to enter a protest in the parish book, which had been made out by a Mr. Hoskins.—*From a Correspondent.* [There is no doubt that the rate is illegal].

REVIVAL OF THE DEACONATE.—The Bishops of Exeter, Norwich, Oxford, Ely, and several other prelates, have intimated their intention of adopting a plan for extending the ministrations of the Church, by the revival of the deaconate, and receiving candidates for holy orders on the qualifications set forth in the 34th canon, which does not require a knowledge of Greek, and on the authority of an act passed 13th Eliz. cap. 13, which declares that the bishops should ordain any person to the deaconate "who has a special gift or ability to be a preacher." At the convention of the American Episcopate, in 1844, the deaconate was restored by repealing all canons which required an educational qualification for the office, similar to that demanded for the presbyterate, which has enabled persons to enter the ministry of the Church whose talents do not fit them for a higher field of activity than that of the deaconate, and who, had it not been restored, would have been altogether excluded from the ministry. Some such regulations it is intended to recommend in the Church of England. As a general rule, persons so ordained will not be admitted into the priesthood, although where extraordinary aptitude for ministerial duties is exhibited, the door will not be closed against them.

ARE CHURCH-RATES A CHARGE ON PROPERTY.—The *Manchester Guardian* contains an admirable reply to the fallacy that church-rates are a charge upon property; in other words, that they are a kind of chief rent, incident to the building. "This analogy," says the *Guardian*, "we entirely dispute. A man, we will suppose, buys a piece of land subject to a chief rent and to church-rate, and, by the expenditure of capital, increases its value tenfold. The chief rent remains the same, but the church-rate is proportionately increased, being levied, not merely on the value of the land itself, but also upon the additional value which has been created by building or other improvements. Again, a man reclaims from the sea a piece of ground which previously produced nothing, and paid nothing to anybody. As soon as it becomes productive, however, it is just as much liable to church-rate as if it had been cultivated ever since the Roman invasion. How can it be said that the rate, imposed in the one case upon the capital expended in buildings, in the other case upon the labour employed in embanking the land, has the slightest analogy to a chief rent? A church-rate is a tax upon the produce of man's own industry. A chief rent is not a tax at all. We will put to our readers a case which actually occurred in this neighbourhood. A gentleman, now deceased, purchased some ground in the parish of Stockport, on which he erected factories; and the church-rate which, from the improved value of the property, he was for several years compelled to pay for the rebuilding of Stockport Church greatly exceeded the original annual value of the land; and he paid altogether for that purpose more than the cost of the fee simple. It cannot be pretended that he bought the property subject to a rate much greater than its entire value. But there is another essential difference between chief rents and church-rates, showing conclusively that the rate is not a payment attaching to the property, but a personal tax upon the occupier. If the land on which a house has been built is subject to a chief rent, the rent is payable under all circumstances; if to a church-rate, that rate is payable only when the house is inhabited. It is, therefore, the inhabitant, not the owner of the property, on whom the tax is imposed."

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ENGLAND.—Dr. Wiseman was entrusted with special despatches from the Pope to her Majesty's Government, which have been presented to Lord John Russell. Until his installation, Dr. Wiseman is to assume the title of Pro-Vicar Apostolic, and thenceforward he is to be styled the Archbishop of Westminster. The ceremony will, it is understood, be performed at the new chapel of St. George's, Southwark. Among the other ecclesiastical arrangements alleged to have been made by his Holiness, are the creation of another archbishopric, the gradual abolition of vicars-apostolic, and the substitution of bishops—thus forming a Roman Catholic hierarchy similar to that in Ireland. The Rev. Dr. Moore, senior chaplain of St. Chad's, Birmingham, will succeed Dr. Wiseman in the coadjutorship of the midland district. When the late Vicar-Apostolic of the London

SOIREE IN HONOUR OF J. H. PARRY, Esq.—We understand that it is the intention of the friends of J. H. Parry, Esq., to invite that gentleman to a soiree in St. Andrew's Hall, about the middle of the next month.—*Norfolk News.*

district became indisposed, he forwarded to the Court of Rome, in accordance with invariable custom, the names of three dignitaries as eligible—Dr. Cox, President of Old-Hall College, was the first; the Rev. Mr. Hunt, of the Spanish Chapel, the second; the third name has not transpired. The Rev. Mr. Newman is immediately to return to London from Rome; and rumour has it that he is to receive one of the best appointments in the new archiepiscopal dioceses at the disposal of Dr. Wiseman.—*Dublin Freeman.*

RELIGIOUS STATE OF SWEDEN.—The Swedish Church is episcopal, each bishop with his consistory conducting the affairs of his diocese; the archbishop has no jurisdiction beyond the diocese of Upsala, but is ex-officio speaker of the clerical house, and in all general meetings of the clergy *primus inter pares*. The Church is in the closest possible union with the State. Gustavus Adolphus wished the Government of the Church to be vested in a general consistory, composed of six spiritual and six temporal members, who should become such in virtue of the offices held by them. All matters ecclesiastical, educational, literary, and benevolent, requiring interference, were to be referred to this council for final decision. Though this proposal was not carried into effect, the actual state of things is, that all such questions as above noticed, come before the King in council through the bureau of the Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs, where also all appointments to episcopal office, and nearly all to pastoral charges, are made. The King proclaims annually four rogation days, (Sabbaths,) and publishes the texts which, on those days, are to supersede the usual gospels and epistles. All Swedes are, and must continue members of the National Church, no dissent from her communion being tolerated. The church law imposes a fine on such Swedes as go to hear a minister of another communion, and threatens such as leave the Lutheran Church with confiscation and banishment. The children born are, of necessity, baptized by the parish clergyman or one of his assistants; the youth arriving at a certain age all are placed under a course of training for confirmation, and a first approach to the Lord's table, after which, at least an annual appearance there is deemed indispensable, not merely to maintain a religious profession, but to avoid the incurring certain civil disabilities. The certificate of the parish clergyman as to age, acquirements, and character, is a document important to be possessed by all, especially the dependent classes, and a mighty disciplinary power is hereby lodged in the hands of the pastors. Each parish clergyman must keep a correct register of every individual, young and old, in his parish, record all the changes by removals, deaths, &c., and furnish an annual return to the Government. He is also expected to see all his parishioners not less frequently than once a year, and a system of domiciliary examination is maintained, which, when wrought by pious and zealous men, may be productive of important results. The usual course is to divide the parish into several districts, find a large room in each, and appoint a time for calling together the dwellers in that district. A summons is left at every house, and all may be compelled to come. When assembled, the clerk reads the names, marking such as are absent, and the clergyman invites group after group, to his table, where each is required to read, and all are examined as to their knowledge of Luther's catechism. The exercises frequently extend during several hours, and they are closed by an address and benediction. If orthodoxy be vital religion, if uniformity be a church's unity, then the Swedish Church furnishes an almost unequalled example of unity. If comprehensiveness to the embracing of a whole population, and the effectual prevention of separate, and in some respects rival denominations, be the best condition of a church for developing the principles and practices of our holy religion, we may then look for a flourishing state of things in Sweden. If large authority given to the clergy, and efficiently sustained by the secular arm—if outward sacraments and observance—if legislative enactments, vigilantly watched over—can make men Christians indeed, then the Swedes are all Christians. But, "the letter killeth, the spirit giveth life."—*Article by the Rev. George Scott in "Evangelical Christendom."*—[This is the beau ideal of Government interference with religion and education; and the measures of our Ministers tend to bring us to the same state of helpless dependence and degrading surveillance, though not with the same admixture of intolerance. It will be remembered that Sweden is one of the countries whose system of national education is so often referred to as exemplary.—*Leeds Mercury.*]

DANGER OF EXPRESS TRAINS.—The fatal accident of last week on the Leeds and Manchester line shows the great danger of very rapid travelling. A rail breaks, and the last carriage is thrown off the line. There are no means of communicating to the engine-driver what has occurred. Through a storm of pouring rain and howling wind, the train tears along, till at last the carriage is dashed to pieces and lives are sacrificed. In this case, the danger would have been arrested had there been a guard upon the last carriage of the train, furnished with the means of communication with the engine-driver. It is a great defect that the driver of an engine which is dragging rapidly a train many yards in length, should be without any possible means of knowing when anything gets wrong in any part of the train. In the evidence before the coroner's jury, Mr. Hawkshaw, the engineer, said as to express trains, that the express train was the worst to which the breaking of a rail could happen. He should be glad if the public would be satisfied with a less speed; but the fact was, that the express trains were driven by the public requirements, and not by the desire of the railway companies.—*Sheffield Independent.*

THE GAME-LAWS.—We understand that the premium of twenty guineas, offered by the East-Lothian Anti-game-law Association for the best essay on the Moral, Social, and Economical Effects of the Game-laws, has been awarded by Mr. Bright, M.P., and the other judges, to Mr. John Cheine Shepherd, farmer, Gleg-hornie, near North Berwick.

CORRESPONDENCE.

VOLUNTARY EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—I find that the committees of some public schools are discontinuing their connexion with the British and Foreign School Society. Of this I am glad; but allow me, Sir, through your valuable journal, to ask, What is the next step these friends of Voluntary Education intend to take? They have passed the Rubicon, as regards the British and Foreign School Society; they cannot, therefore, look to that society for any aid for the future. Suppose, then, that they should shortly require schoolmasters,—from whence will they obtain them? Or, suppose that young men, purely Voluntaries, wish to become schoolmasters for Voluntary schools, where are they to learn the system of teaching? These queries, I think, Sir, will suggest the importance of steps being immediately taken for the formation of a new society. "Delay is dangerous." I believe that, owing to the apparent indifference of the friends of Voluntary Education to this matter, some committees, who were wavering, are now consenting to take Government aid, and to place their schools under its inspection.

Of course, time will be required in order to mature plans for a new society. What, then, must be done in the interim? I would take the liberty of suggesting, that the committees of some of the best Voluntary schools in London and other places open their schools for the reception of young men for training; and that they advertise their willingness so to do in the *Nonconformist*, *Patriot*, *Christian Witness*, and the *Leeds Mercury*; and that when young men have been properly trained in their schools, and are qualified to conduct a school, they make it known through the same channels; and I doubt not that great service would thus be rendered to the cause of Voluntary Anti-state-church Education.

I am, dear Sir, yours respectfully,

A VOLUNTARY IN THE COUNTRY.

September 24th, 1847.

BIDWELL'S CASE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I enclose you, observing the deep interest you take in Bidwell's case, a copy of the correspondence on the subject I had with the Right Hon. Lord John Russell. As I fear among Dissenters the opinion obtains that Bidwell, according to law, suffered the infliction of a righteous sentence, I shall feel obliged, in contradiction of that opinion, if you will insert my letter, with the acknowledgment of the noble lord.

Bidwell is now liberated; but the question for you, for our Dissenting M.P.'s, and the country to determine is, is the sentence of Bidwell to remain unreversed? If any ever deserved an impeachment, it is they who passed it; for if Bidwell's sentence should be cited as a correct interpretation of the act, then you, Miall and Cockshaw, Joseph Sturge, and the whole batch of recusants, may by it be sent to prison. A pleasant prospect—a prison in the distance, and at the mercy of churchwardens. It was an error in the *Patriot* to suppose there is any distinction between the Society of Friends and other Dissenters. There is but this act, the 53 of George III., for the recovery of church-rates; so that all sail in the same boat!

I am, &c.,

Ludlow, Sept. 23, 1847.

W. KINNERSLEY.

"To the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

"MY LORD,—With deference, yet with a freedom prompted by the urgency of the case I shall presently submit to you, I presume to address your lordship.

"My lord, at the last Cambridge assizes Mr. Justice Pattison, in giving effect to the decision of Mr. Baron Parke in the case *Regina v. Bidwell*, consigned the defendant to six months' imprisonment, for being guilty, as interpreted, of a misdemeanor, in refusing to pay a church-rate when ordered by the magistrates who adjudicated the case. It appears, my lord, from the accounts I have seen, this oppressed individual, when cited by the authorities for non-payment of the rate, suffered judgment by default, exposing himself therefore, as the 53rd of George III. directs, to an order for payment—a warrant of distress—the seizure and the sale of his goods. I say this is the correct interpretation of the Act, which in the preamble recites, 'it was expedient the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts should cease; substituting the economy to which I have adverted, so that if the liability of an individual to be rated, nor the validity of the rate were called in question, nor the jurisdiction of the magistrate objected to, the only punishment he would be subjected to would be, for conscience' sake, the seizure and sale of his goods—for such an offence, a punishment sufficiently rigorous. But now, my lord, although such has been the consistent practice since the time the Legislature recognised the conscientious objections of those who refused to pay church-rates, and therefore passed this Act for their relief, by an unheard-of interpretation, overlooking the spirit of the Act, Bidwell, because he dared to adhere to his conscientious convictions, is indicted as an evil-doer, arraigned, advised to plead guilty, and sentenced, after judgment is deferred for two years, to six months' imprisonment, separating him from a wife and five children dependent on him for support! My lord, such a decision and imprisonment outrages the law, and violates the liberty of the subject!

"My lord, my reason for thus stating the case, and addressing your lordship, is the hope you will redress the grievances which that poor man is called to endure. Your lordship promised the electors of London that, if any among the Dissenters had any complaint to urge, and would apply to you, you would not only attend to it, but remove it. I therefore call upon your lordship to liberate this man; as the world will then judge, which undoubtedly was made in great sincerity, of the value of your lordship's promise. I to the fullest extent sympathizing with this unfortunate victim of an arrogant, intolerant, and worthless hierarchy, pleading your lordship's promise, subscribe myself

Your lordship's most obedient servant,

Ludlow, Sept. 2, 1847.

WILLIAM KINNERSLEY."

Downing-street, Sept. 10, 1847.

"SIR,—I am desired by Lord John Russell, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Mr. W. Kinnersley

R. GREY."

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN HONDURAS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

17, Lloyd-square, Pentonville, September 24th, 1847.

DEAR SIR,—The kind and generous manner in which you entertained my case, when brought under your notice in June last, emboldens me to ask to be permitted again to state a few further particulars now that success has so far attended my appeal to her Majesty's Government, on the

grievances endured by myself and others from the authorities in Honduras, on account of our views on the subject of oath-taking.

The following letter, received from Downing-street, will show the liberal views of Ministers, and I cannot help regarding the expression of them in such a quarter at the present time as a contribution of considerable importance to the cause of religious liberty, especially in the colonies.

To myself this relief has been procured at no small expense of time, money, and personal suffering; and other friends in Honduras could say the same, for even since my departure in April last, I have had forwarded to me six summonses, issued against George Braddick, a worthy deacon of our church, for having violated the "proceeding of the public meeting," on which, after frequent payment of fines, the last found him unprepared with the cash, when his household furniture was seized and sold, even to the bed he lay on.

These things come particularly severe to the church at Honduras, which has but lately become independent of the Missionary Society, and stands greatly in need of a new place of worship, being compelled to meet in separate houses until we obtain one. Indeed I am of opinion these measures of the local authorities were made more stringent at this crisis, in hopes of crushing the rising cause. Upwards of forty pounds sterling was laid upon us last year, and that of 1847 must far exceed that sum.

I have engaged my passage on board the "Calista," which sails on the 8th October, for Honduras, where friends are longing to hear good news from the far country. And thanking you, dear Sir, and other Christian friends who have aided me in accomplishing the object of my visit to England, I bid you all farewell.

ALEXANDER HENDERSON.

Downing-street, August 14th, 1847.

SIR,—I am directed by Earl Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd ult., enclosing a statement of divers cases in which fines and imprisonment had been suffered by persons in the British settlements in the Bay of Honduras, on the ground of their having violated the provisions of a proceeding of the Public Meeting of Honduras, called "An Act for declaring and defining the Laws respecting Dissenters."

I have also received from Governor Sir Charles Grey the memorial presented to Colonel Fancourt on the 29th March last, against this act, and the memorial addressed to me by yourself and others at Belize, on the 20th March last. Lord Grey, not having received from the local authorities any report on the particulars of the cases stated in your communication of the 22nd ult., is not enabled to express any opinion upon them; but he has no hesitation in assuring you that her Majesty's Government would strongly disapprove of the exaction of any penalties from persons refusing to take oaths from *bona fide* religious scruples, without any desire to defeat the ends of justice. And with regard to the proceeding called, "An Act for declaring and defining the Laws relating to Dissenters," they consider it inexpedient that any person should be called upon to take oaths under it; and her Majesty's Government will use their influence with the local authorities accordingly. But his lordship desires me to remind you, and those on whose behalf you apply, that in choosing these settlements for their place of abode, they place themselves in a situation in which legal rights must be unavoidably subject to more uncertainty than in the territorial possessions of the Crown.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. HAWES.

Rev. Alex. Henderson.

THE ENGLISH ELECTIONS.—It is because of the supreme control which the House of Commons exerts over the destinies of the empire, and of its mighty influence over those of the world, that an election like that which was in progress at the last advices is of such a universal and permanent interest. It is prophetic of peaceful and beneficent revolution. It shows that the popular element is growing stronger and stronger, and more and more conscious of its strength. The defeat of four members of the Whig Government—Sir John Cam Hobhouse at Nottingham, by Feargus O'Connor, the leader of the Chartists; Thomas Babington Macaulay, at Edinburgh, by Mr. Cowan, an anti-state-church tradesman; Benjamin Hawes, at Lambeth, by Mr. Pearson, the Nonconformist candidate; and above all, General Fox, at the Tower Hamlets, by George Thompson—and the return of such men as Henry Vincent for Ipswich, and W. J. Fox for Oldham, speak significantly of a change at hand. The principle of progress is at work. Better days are coming. Great things have been already done; but greater yet remain behind. Mighty events are knocking at the door. Many of these this Parliament will usher into the domain of history; and of yet more and mightier it will prepare the way and proclaim the advent.—*Boston Liberator*.

THE ROBBERY OF THE BANK NOTES OF MESSRS. ROGERS.—The stolen notes of Rogers and Co. have at length been recovered by that firm. The robbery took place, it will be recollected, in November, 1844, and the amount of bank-notes was £43,000, and of gold £1,200. There were also many bills of exchange. The notes and bills are stated to have been returned on Saturday, through the Parcels Delivery Company just in the shape in which they were originally deposited in the strong-room of the banking-house, but the gold, of course, has been made away with. For the past year or two the use of the amount has been granted to the firm in the shape of an advance from the Bank of England on the deposit of security.

A PHYSICIAN SHOOTING HIS WIFE FOR A BURGLAR.—A melancholy accident occurred near Troy, Pennsylvania, on Thursday night of last week. Some time in the night, Mrs. Pierce, wife of Dr. J. B. Pierce, had occasion to go to the window of the chamber in which they were sleeping, leaving Dr. Pierce asleep. The raising of the window awoke him, and he instantly seized his gun, which was near his bedside, supposing that some one was trying to break into the house. After Mrs. Pierce had let down the window, she advanced towards the bed. Dr. Pierce called out twice to stop, or he would fire; but she still advanced, and he fired, when she was near the muzzle of the gun—the whole charge of shot entering her breast, and she fell dead on the floor. He then felt in the bed for his wife, to tell her he had killed some one, when not finding her, the truth flashed upon him, that he had shot his own wife!—*Elmira Gazette*, U.S., Aug. 31.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

RIDGMOUNT.—On Tuesday, the 14th inst., special thanksgiving services were held in the Baptist Chapel, Ridgmount, Beds, which were numerous attended and highly interesting.

MARKET WRIGHTON, YORKSHIRE.—The Independent Chapel of this town, which has been closed some weeks for the purpose of repairs and painting, was reopened for Divine worship on Tuesday evening, September 21, on which occasion a sermon was preached by Mr. Hudswell, of Leeds, instead of Mr. John Ely, who was prevented from fulfilling his engagement by indisposition; notwithstanding the evening was very wet, the congregation was large, and the collection liberal.

WHEATHAMSTEAD, HERTS.—On Wednesday, September 22, prior to the removal of Mr. T. Gilbert, the members of the Church presented to him a purse of gold, with an elegant gold watch, bearing a suitable inscription. The Sunday-school children presented Mrs. Gilbert with "Cobbin's Commentary," handsomely bound.

DUNSTABLE.—THANKSGIVING SERVICES.—On Thursday, the 9th of September, the members of the Baptist church and congregation, Dunstable, held special services in their Chapel—to present their united thanksgivings to God for his great goodness in giving an abundant and fruitful harvest. The services commenced at 7 o'clock in the morning by a "public prayer-meeting" in the Chapel, which was well-attended. Mr. D. Gould, the minister, preached an excellent and highly-appropriate sermon in the evening; after which another prayer-meeting was held. On Wednesday evening, a thanksgiving "harvest-home entertainment" was provided by Richard Gutteridge, Esq., in the Sunday-school-room, West-street, the entire proceeds of which (amounting to £6) were paid into the hands of the treasurer of the New Baptist Chapel fund, as a thank-offering to the Giver of all goodness for the abundant harvest. About eighty friends sat down to an excellent supper, and the evening was spent in an interesting and profitable manner. Addresses were delivered by Mr. D. Gould; Mr. Burns (Episcopalian); Mr. Newman; Messrs. Pointer and C. Lockhart (Wesleyan); and Mr. Harkness, of Bedford. A vote of thanks to Mr. Gutteridge was then passed, and after singing, and prayer by Mr. Gould, the meeting separated.

HENRY VINCENT AT HALESWORTH.—This popular advocate of freedom, and champion of the rights of the people, visited this town on Thursday and Friday, the 9th and 10th inst. On the Thursday evening, a public tea meeting was held in the Assembly Room, at which upwards of three hundred sat down. The interest excited by this meeting extended beyond the immediate neighbourhood, and it was gratifying to see Mr. Vincent's friends rallying round him from most of the adjacent towns. The room and tables were tastefully decorated with flowers and mottoes, arranged and procured by ladies, who thus paid homage to the cause of truth and progress. The subject of Mr. Vincent's first lecture was, "Popular Education," in which he gave a graphic sketch of the present state of society in Great Britain; pointed out the importance of education as a means of elevating the people, defining it to be the healthful and full development of the physical, intellectual, and moral powers of man; combated the popular and vulgar prejudices against efficient education of the masses; and finally advocated the free and unfettered education of the people, by exhorting them to rely upon the power they possessed of elevating and educating themselves. The lecture was interspersed with many noble sentiments and eloquent appeals; and the primary importance of moral education, of training the people to feel correctly, was long and cogently pleaded. On the Friday evening, Mr. Vincent delivered a lecture in the same place on Christianity and Civil Government. The attendance exceeded that of the preceding evening. The lecture included the principles on which Governments should be founded, and the policy by which they ought to be regulated; its leading idea being, that Christianity should form the basis of all political and social rights. It is hoped the above lectures are but the precursors of more, and that Mr. Vincent's visit to Halesworth will stimulate other towns to honour themselves and him by giving him the like invitation. To ensure success, it only requires a combination of four or five friends, who sympathize with the interests of the working classes, to undertake the management and responsibility of the affair; for the time has happily come when the people readily respond to any appeal made to them on behalf of their civil rights and social progress.—*From a Correspondent*.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS DURING SIX MONTHS.—A Parliamentary return just issued shows the number of railway accidents in which persons were hurt or killed in the United Kingdom from the 1st January to the 30th June this year. The total of passengers was 23,119,412; of persons killed, 101; wounded, 100. These totals are analyzed; and it appears that there were 14 passengers killed and 48 wounded from causes beyond their own control; 8 killed and 3 hurt owing to their own folly or incautiousness; 8 servants of companies killed and 17 wounded from causes beyond their own control; 51 servants killed and 24 hurt owing to want of caution, or recklessness, (such as leaping from engines or carriages in rapid motion, and other similar acts of temerity); 19 trespassers killed and 7 hurt; and 1 person killed and another hurt while crossing the railways at level crossings.

A DARING BURGLARY has been committed in the village of Hutton, near Brentwood. Mr. Offin's residence was attacked by a gang of robbers, four of whom, armed with pistols and bludgeons, and having their faces blackened, entered the house, overpowered the inmates, and carried off plate and other articles worth some £400 or £500. This is not the first robbery of the kind that has lately happened in the neighbourhood.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

OPINION OF THE EDUCATED CLASSES IN FRANCE RESPECTING LOUIS PHILIPPE'S GOVERNMENT.—The Scientific Congress of France—a body similar to our Association for the Advancement of Science—held its fifteenth session during the last week, at Tours, on which occasion nearly one thousand persons, some of whom were well known to science, art, and literature, enrolled themselves as members. At a very full meeting of this learned society, held on Thursday, the 9th instant, in the great hall of the Palace of Justice, at Tours, M^{on}seigneur the Archbishop being present, with many of the notabilities of the city and neighbourhood, as also a phalanx of the fair sex, with the lady of the Prefect of the Department at their head, one of the orators, whilst discussing the solitary system now pursued in the Penitentiary of Tours, said incidentally, "*Le Gouvernement sous lequel nous vivons, à présent, le bonheur de vivre.*" (The Government under which we have now the happiness to live). Immediately he had uttered this expression, which, not long ago, would have passed as only complimentary verbiage, the speaker was interrupted by such an explosion of derisive laughter, from apparently almost the entire audience, that he was unable to finish his sentence, and forced to pause for a short time before tranquillity was sufficiently restored to allow him to continue his speech, and for some of those occupying high places in this crowded assemblage properly to arrange their features, so suddenly discomposed by this sudden outburst of genuine public opinion.—*Globe.*

RESIGNATION OF MARSHAL SOULT.—The assumption by M. Guizot of the nominal presidency of the Cabinet, of which he has long been the real head, has been so long expected, that this event, which was announced in the *Moniteur* by royal ordonnance on Wednesday, excited little interest and caused no surprise. "Marshal Soult," says the official notification of this event, "has addressed a letter to the King, praying him to accept his resignation of the functions of President of the Council." The King, expressing deep regret that he was called upon to do so, accepted the tendered resignation. It is understood that Marshal Soult will accept the office of Governor of the Invalides, a sinecure with a salary of 40,000 francs, a house, and other advantages. M. Guizot retains his office as Minister of Foreign Affairs; no salary being annexed to the Presidency of the Council.

THE LIBERTY OF THE SUBJECT.—The printers of Paris have annually had a public dinner; but when they asked the usual permission from the Prefect of Police for this year, it was refused. The men, to the number of five or six hundred, then made arrangements to dine privately; but as they were sitting down to table, on Sunday, two Commissioners of Police entered the room and ordered the printers to disperse; which they did without resistance.

Count Bresson has been ordered to his post as French Ambassador at Naples, forthwith. M. Bresson had a long interview with the King before leaving Paris. He has, it is said, been charged by the King with a diplomatic mission to the Courts of Milan, Turin, Florence, and Rome, through which cities he would pass on his way to his new post. In this case Count Bresson would tread close upon the footsteps of Lord Minto.

The Reform dinners throughout France were causing much displeasure to the Government.

The *Echo de Vesone*, the organ of Marshal Bugeaud, thus expresses itself on the appointment of the Duc d'Aumale to the Government of Algeria:—"The nomination of Duc d'Aumale to that post is impolitic, fatal to France, and ruinous for Algeria. It is the most unpopular act of the reign, and its disastrous consequences will soon be felt."

The French Government has given permission to the ex-King of Holland, Prince Jérôme Bonaparte, and his family, to reside for three months in Paris. This is understood to be a preliminary step to their being permitted to take up their permanent residence in France.

The investigation into the affair of Mademoiselle Deluzy is still going on. Several witnesses have been interrogated, and commissions to examine have been forwarded to several tribunals in the country, and especially to that of Melun, to inquire into matters anterior to the period of the crime, and connected more particularly with the position of M^{lle}. Deluzy in the Praslin family. It is not until after those inquiries have been concluded that she can be again examined. She is now kept less strictly than before, and has received permission to receive certain visits.

The *Journal des Débats* publishes a long article on the affairs of Italy, in which it recommends the Italians to progress without violence, without disturbances, and by a common consent between the people and their Sovereigns. If they respect treaties and the international law, the *Débats* promises them the sympathies and support of the French Government. As it is, it says France has never ceased to plead their cause in the councils of Europe, and it will never cease to give the Princes, who have adopted the system of reform, most positive marks of its solicitude and interest. This article is considered symptomatic of a more decided policy in support of the Pope on the part of France.

SPAIN.

Advices from Madrid, to the 18th instant, give bad accounts of the Ministerial progress. The vacillation had gone to such an extent that measures had been taken to prevent Espartero's return to Spain. The *Heraldo* asserts that "orders" had been sent to the frontier to prevent his entering the country, which appears to be an exaggeration; but it seems that he had been advised not to return.

The attempts made by the Moderados to seduce the troops in garrison in Navarre have become so bold and open, that the Captain-General has found it necessary to make a formal report on the subject to the Government; but nothing has been done to punish the authors of these dangerous practices.

Letters from Catalonia give accounts of more engagements between the insurgent bands and the Queen's

troops, but none of them appear to have been of any importance.

A royal decree had been promulgated, prohibiting the entry into Spain of any member of the royal family, without the previous assent of her Majesty, Queen Isabella. This decree is directed especially against Queen Christina.

We find in the *Constitutionnel* a letter from Madrid, of the 20th inst., stating that a perfect understanding now existed between Generals Narvaez and Serrano, and that the conferences which took place between those two personages on the 18th and 19th induced a belief that the two great Moderado factions—the faction of Narvaez and that of Salamanca—were negotiating to arrive at a Ministerial arrangement which would unite the whole of the party before the convocation of the Cortes.

PORTUGAL.

By advices from Lisbon to the 19th inst., we learn that the chiefs of the Septembrist electoral committee had sent a deputation to the Minister of the Kingdom, with a petition to the Queen, claiming redress, on the subject of electoral registration, protesting against the validity of the electoral process as far as it had gone, and demanding such a change of authorities throughout the kingdom as would be a guarantee of fairness in the registration and personal security at the elections. The Minister consented to submit the demand to the decision of the Council of State. A difference of opinion in the Cabinet was likely to produce a Ministerial crisis. The Septembrist chiefs sent a copy of the petition, and addressed at the same time a note to the ambassadors of the Allied Powers. The schism between the moderate Cartistas and the Cabral party still continued; the latter section was waxing strong, and leaving the Government without any other resource than to seek support from the moderate Septembrists. Marshal Saldanha was going as ambassador to Madrid.

ITALY.

The Duke of Lucca has fled from his duchy. The hesitation which the Duke manifested at the commencement of the month soon returned; and, under pretext of ill health, he instituted a regency, and quitted his states *sine die*. After his proclamation, appointing a regency, this shameless prince withdrew to the neighbouring principality of Modena, from the shelter of which he sent another proclamation revoking all his former acts, perfidiously breaking his solemnly sworn pledges, and annulling the decrees for the institution of the national guard, the liberty of the press, and other constitutional guarantees, which a few days before he formally proclaimed. It was generally believed that the duke was instigated to this act of perfidy by Austrian agents. The duke took with him his treasures, and was accompanied by Mr. Ward, an English gentleman, who is styled "his Finance Minister." Subsequently, the evasive prince was seen at Parma. His flight had caused great irritation in Lucca. The *Journal des Débats* states, on the authority of private letters from Lucca, that it was with the greatest difficulty the wife of the Hereditary Prince of Lucca, who is sister to the Duke of Bordeaux, had been prevailed on to quit the capital. She reproached her father-in-law and husband with pusillanimity, and entreated them to remain. It was much regretted at Lucca that her advice had not been followed.

Letters from Florence of the 17th mention that the law for organizing the Civic Guard, just promulgated, had not satisfied public expectation: it excluded from active service workmen, peasants, and labourers, and retained in the hands of the Government the exclusive appointment of officers. A public protest against it was prepared and signed by thousands of persons. This remonstrance, however, was anticipated by the Government, which was not slow to discover the false step it had taken, and the day after the publication of the first decree another appeared, modifying it and appointing a committee to decide on the regulations under which the officers of the national guard should be nominated.

The *Piedmontese Gazette* of the 23rd inst. announces, that the Duke of Modena has given orders to form a military cordon on the frontiers of Tuscany.

The journals and correspondence of Rome to the 19th have been received. Tranquillity prevailed everywhere in the pontifical states, and addresses arrived daily from the provinces, expressive of the devotion of the people to their sovereign, and their readiness to place their persons and their properties at his absolute disposition. The Pope was still determined to resist in case of any attack upon the independence of his states. It was reported that his Holiness had assented to a proposition that Louis Philippe should become arbitrator between the Holy See and Austria. Pius IX. added, however, a condition which Prince Metternich would not subscribe to, namely, that the Austrian troops should withdraw from the town and citadel of Ferrara. The proposition of the King of the French fell therefore to the ground, much to the satisfaction, it was said, of all in Rome who had learned anything of the matter. Austrian intervention in Lucca and Modena was hourly expected, and it was said that the Grand Duke of Tuscany was wavering.

SUCCESS OF THE CALABRIAN INSURGENTS.—The *Nouvelles de Marseille* of the 24th inst. quotes a letter from Naples of the 19th, announcing the defeat of the royal troops under the orders of General Nunziante, by the Calabrian insurgents, in the neighbourhood of Gerace. A provisional Government had been established in Calabria. Its first act was to abolish the tax on salt, and to change all the functionaries opposed to its views. The letter adds, that the commander of the latter, named Romeo, having proposed an exchange of prisoners, the Neapolitan General replied that it was too late, the rebels he had taken being already put to death. On receipt of that reply, Romeo immediately ordered out his own prisoners for execution.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION OF THE AUSTRIAN CABINET.—The Paris *Constitutionnel* publishes a note presented by the Austrian Minister, the Count de Lutzw, to the Pontifical Government, on the 1st inst., in reply to the protest of the Pope against the occupation of Ferrara. Austria refers, in support of her right to garrison that town, to the 103rd article of the Treaty of Vienna:—

"The word 'place' used in that article (says the Austrian

note) leaves no doubt as to that right. The town of Ferrara, being surrounded with ramparts, forms, with the citadel, what is called the 'Place' of Ferrara, which Austria, in virtue of the treaty of 1815, possesses the right to garrison." The Cabinet of Vienna next contends, that "it is the interest of the Roman as well as of the Austrian Government, and the population of Ferrara, that the service of the place should be performed with order and regularity. The attempt made against Captain Jankowitch by the anarchists proved the necessity of patrols for the preservation of order." The Emperor further declares, that "not considering the protest of the Cardinal Legate as founded in law—and finding, moreover, in the last manifestations which took place at Ferrara an additional motive for the garrison to conform strictly to the rules of prudence—the Marshal Count Radetzki, Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial troops in Lombardy, had been instructed to maintain entire the rights of the garrison of Ferrara, the exercise of which, moreover, was, in a military point of view, indispensable to its security." The Imperial Court next "blames the Cardinal Legate for recurring to a notary to draw up his protest," and adds, that "the Secretary of State having thought proper to communicate that document to all the members of the *corps diplomatique*, the Aulic Cabinet had felt equally obliged to communicate to the different Courts its reply to his protest."

SWITZERLAND.

Letters from Berne, of the 22nd inst., state that military preparations were proceeding with considerable activity on the part of the Federal Government and the Sonderbund, and that a collision was deemed imminent. The canton of Zurich had demanded the speedy dissolution of the League, and, in imitation of Berne, had granted a considerable sum for the organization of the militia on a respectable footing. Those two cantons, the most populous and wealthy in Switzerland, can alone bring into the field 40,000 men perfectly drilled, armed, and equipped, and maintain them during two months without any detriment to their finances. The Austrian envoy, Baron de Kaisersfeld, continued to reside at Zurich, from whence he was strenuously labouring to prevent the Governments of St. Gall and the Grisons from instructing their deputies in the Diet, which is to meet on the 18th of October, to vote in favour of the adoption of coercive measures against the Sonderbund. There was, however, very little probability of his attaining that end.

Lord Minto had arrived at Berne, and had assured the chief of the Vorort that Great Britain would not permit foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the cantons.

GREECE.

Coletti, the Prime Minister, expired on the 12th inst., after a fortnight's illness. His malady was known to be incurable some time before his death. His successor is not yet named. His death will, however, lead to a change of system, and, it is to be hoped, to the adoption of a course calculated to place Greece in a more promising position than she has occupied for a long period. His demise will admit of instant reparation to Turkey—of the construction of a cabinet imbued with sound sense and patriotism.

The country is convulsed with revolutionary movements. At Naupacte, General Mamoris has been repulsed by the revolted Colonel Pharmaki, who is supported by many eminent officers of the army. Officers who have heretofore adhered to the Government have suddenly left Athens, and disappeared—gone to join the insurgents. In the Eubœa, the followers of Grizioti still keep the country warm, while he is having his wounds cured under Turkish protection at Chios.

AUSTRIA.

PROGRESS OF OPINION IN HUNGARY.—Letters from Pesth of the 11th inst. state, the instructions which the assembly of the county of Pesth have given to its members of the next General Assembly have been published. It is rumoured that this county demands, amongst other things:—

1. The complete equality of all citizens before the law, the publicity of the judicial debates, and the judgment by jury in all criminal affairs, not excepting political crimes.
2. The formation of a Court of Cassation like that of France.
3. The abolition of forced labour and all impositions of the like nature, which will be replaced by numerical contributions.
4. The establishment of a general bank, destined to assist commerce and industry.
5. The right for each village to be represented by two members in the county assembly, of which it forms part.

The proposition of this last demand was at first strongly opposed by the prelates of the county of Pesth; but upon the energetic observations of the celebrated writer, M. le Baron Joseph de Coetover, they finally acceded.

TURKEY.

The *Constantinople Journal*, of the 7th inst., mentions, that the Government have been informed, by a courier despatched from the head quarters of the army, in Roumelia, that a corps of Ottoman troops had succeeded in taking a position between Argyrocaastro and Berat, so as to isolate the two fractions of the Albanian revolvers, and cut off their communications. That movement, however, was not effected without resistance, and a corps of rebels, who attempted to oppose it, was completely routed. The cholera was raging at Teflis, Kars, and Koutaisa. It had likewise manifested itself at Erzeroum, and in the Black Sea harbour of Batoum and Ridout-Kali. Serious apprehensions were entertained at Trebizonde, which is only sixty leagues from Batoum.

The Greek question still continued to pre-occupy the public mind at Constantinople. The coercive measures ordered by the Porte were being executed in all parts of Turkey. The authorities had everywhere suspended their relations with the Consuls of Greece, and the subjects of that kingdom were left without protection.

MOROCCO.

DEFEAT OF ABD-EL-KADER.—The *Sémaphore de Marseille*, of the 23rd inst., brings accounts from Oran of the 18th. On that day the authorities of Oran were informed that a new engagement had been fought, on the road of Tazato Fez, between the troops of Abd-el-Kader and those of the Emperor of Morocco. The encounter was disastrous to the Emir, who experienced a

severe loss and was compelled to retreat. It appears even that Abd-el-Kader, apprehending the consequences of a check, which might have completely changed the friendly disposition manifested towards him by the Moorish population, had demanded an interview of the Lieutenant of the Emperor.

INDIA AND CHINA.

By the overland mail we have advices from Calcutta to the 7th of August. There was no news of the "Cleopatra" steamer, which must now, also, be supposed to have perished with 300 souls on board!

The Governor-general, Commander-in-chief of India, and Lieutenant-governor of the north-western provinces, remained at Simla. More precise information has been obtained as to the amount of retrenchment which the Governor-general has determined on effecting in the army. The Bengal reductions, including one Queen's regiment, will amount to 30,000 men; in the Madras army, to 10,000 men, entirely from the native force; and in Bombay to 70,000 men, including a Queen's regiment. The total reduction in expense will amount to a sum of about £1,160,000, which, with other additions to the credit budget, will this year relieve the finances to the extent of at least £1,780,000. These retrenchments, which the Governor-General considers it safe at present to adopt, will, with the five per. cent loan, about equalize the revenue with the expenditure.

The Punjab was in repose, and our influence there in so satisfactory a state as to give promise of its benefits being soon appreciated by the people. Nor are there any complaints from Scinde. The Lower Indus will shortly be handed over by General Sir Charles Napier to a purely civil Governor.

The only movement of any description in the Peninsula was a combined attempt by small bodies of irregular cavalry to catch the wandering Dacoit chief Doongur Singh, but it was feared they would all prove unavailing. He was said to be in the neighbourhood of Nusseerabad, lying close to the jungles till the hue and cry had passed by. The Rajpoot sovereigns of Upper and Central India had, meanwhile, been threatened with the severest displeasure of Government should they be found aiding him in any way, or should they not do their best to secure his capture.

The steamer "Nemesis," with Mr. Brooke on board, had a severe action on the 30th of May with a fleet of piratical prahus off Labuan. The pirates were completely routed, several of their prahus having been driven on shore and burned. Mr. Brooke is on his way to England, bringing with him the treaty which he had concluded with the Sultan of Borneo.

The news from China is of a less warlike character than that brought by the last despatches, and is commercially important. The demonstration made at the beginning of the year, by the taking of the Bogue forts, has had so salutary an effect on the Chinese authorities that a few troops left to guard the factories were withdrawn in June. Their presence tended, it was thought, to keep alive a feeling of insecurity and alarm among the Chinese. The foreign merchants were apprehensive of the people, while the people were fearful of a second invasion. The native capitalists refused the usual banking facilities, and all commerce was at a stand; everything like mutual confidence ceased. The presence even of one company was thought to have retarded a speedy and wholesome settlement of the differences between the Chinese and ourselves. The policy of withdrawing them appears to have answered the expectations of Sir John Davis. The Chinese officials had since been remarkably courteous in their communications to our consul at Canton, and to the governor of Hong-Kong.

Her Majesty's ship "Dædalus," the "Vernon," Admiral Inglefield, and the four troop-ships, "Minerva," "Castle Eden," "Romeo," and "Isabella," with the 95th regiment and Ceylon rifles, had arrived at Hong-Kong. The whole force now is about 3,000 men.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The commander of her Majesty's ship "Bramble" has taken possession of New Guinea in the name of her Majesty, which circumstance is strongly confirmatory of the reported intention of the British Government to found a penal settlement in that vast island.—*South Australian Register*.

THE CHOLERA.—Alarming reports of extending cholera have been received from Teflis, Kars, Trebizonde, the Caucasus, Smolensko, Kieff, and Riga.

DEATH OF AN INDIAN CHIEF.—The *Grand River Rapids* (Michigan) *Eagle* announces the death of an Indian of that village, as Blackskin. The *Eagle* says he lived to be upwards of a hundred years old, and has enacted, at the head of his tribe, many exciting scenes in his life. His hand first applied the torch to the city of Buffalo in the war of 1812. The old man, with the remnant of his tribe, has long been on friendly terms with the whites, and his death is a notable event in the history of his tribe.

DEMONSTRATION IN BADEN.—The *Journal des Débats* announces that a political demonstration of some importance took place on the 12th instant at Offenbourg, in the Grand Duchy of Baden. Five or six hundred persons, presided over by the Burghmaster, resolved "that the Government should discharge itself from the engagements made at Carlsbad in 1819, at Frankfurt in 1831 and 1832, and at Vienna in 1834—engagements which violate the treaties of the German Confederation, and the constitution of the country. That the Government should, moreover, grant liberty of the press, liberty of instruction and personal liberty, an equitable system of taxation and the substitution of a progressive income-tax for the existing mode of levying taxes, the admission of all classes of the people to the benefits of education, and that trial by jury should be instituted; that all military men should take the oaths of fidelity to the constitution; that all citizens should have a right to meet and to speak freely; that the people should be represented in the German Confederation; that they should have a voice in the council in which public affairs are discussed; that equality should be re-established between labour and capital; and that all privileges should be abolished."

THE RIVER PLATE.—LIVERPOOL, MONDAY.—We have dates in town from Monte Video to the 23rd of July. There is no particular news. Negotiations were still going on between the Government of Rosas and the English and French Ministers, and strong hopes were entertained by the merchants of a favourable issue. As Lord Howden, on the 16th July, was leaving H.M.S. Raleigh, to proceed to the town, in order to take official leave of the Provisional Government, a signal was made by Mr. Consul Hood, from the barracks to the ship, in these words:—"The French Minister and the Monte Videan Ministers earnestly entreat the English envoy not to come on shore, as his life is threatened by the foreigners."

MR. COBDEN AT MOSCOW.—The celebrated Cobden is still among us. He came from Nishni Novgorod, where he had been attending the fair. The immense variety of articles which were exposed for sale, and the admirable order which prevailed at the exchange of goods, have quite exceeded his expectations. On the road of Nishni Novgorod Mr. Cobden visited several manufacturing districts, and here it was that the industry of our peasantry astonished him. At Moscow, also, several manufactures have excited his astonishment and admiration. Mr. Cobden assured M. Gutschkow, the proprietor of calico-printing mills, that he had nowhere seen so completely organized a manufacture of this kind. Mr. Cobden said, "You need not be afraid of any competition; cloth-weaving is in the most favourable state in Russia, and all circumstances combine to bring this branch of industry to the highest perfection."

According to the information collected by the Agricultural Society of the Haut-Rhin, the produce of the harvest in that department exceeds the general average by about one-fourth.—*Galignani*.

FATAL COLLISION ON THE SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

—On Saturday morning, about 4 o'clock, a collision occurred between the up-mail train and a portion of the goods train, which resulted in the destruction of three or four of the trucks of the goods train, and the loss of life of one of the guards of that train. The occurrence took place about 300 yards on the London side of the Wimbledon station. A fog prevailed at the time, and it appears that the up goods train, due at Nine Elms terminus between 3 and 4 o'clock, had, when it arrived at the above spot, been stopped by an accident. The carriages came uncoupled, the engine proceeding on with about three-fourths of the train, and leaving nine or ten trucks and vans behind. It is said that the engine-driver proceeded straight to Nine Elms before the fact was noticed, while another statement is, that those carriages were necessarily left behind, the engine not having sufficient power to propel the entire train. In one of those left behind was one of the guards, named W. Sawyer, who is supposed to have been asleep. At nearly four o'clock, the metropolitan police on duty near the railway, heard a loud crash in the direction of the line, followed by shrieks and cries of human beings. Sergeant Golding, 30 V, and a body of constables were soon on the spot, and having roused up the station agent, policeman, and porter, who were in bed, they hastened to the scene of the accident, when it was found that the up mail-train, which consisted of nine carriages, propelled by the Hornet, a very powerful engine, had run in upon the vans and trucks with such velocity and force, as to almost double up and crush in the end and two following ones, and strew the line with fragments. Neither the Hornet engine, the driver, the fireman, nor the guards and passengers, were, singular to state, injured; but on the vans and trucks being searched by Mr. Bradford (the agent), the guard (William Sawyer) was found bent double against a chest, with a load of goods bearing him down. The poor fellow had evidently made desperate struggles to extricate himself, but was unable to do so, and was crushed to death. The body was removed to the Dog and Hare, Wimbledon, to await an inquest. The deceased had been guard about twelve months, and was 20 years of age.

DROWNED IN A MUG.—A little girl of about a year and a quarter old, daughter of William Bibby, labourer, of Croston, near Ormskirk, having been left by its mother for a few minutes on Saturday, fell into a mug that had been placed upon the house-floors, and which only contained about a quart of water; and before it was discovered the accident had caused the loss of life.—*Liverpool Standard*.

A LADY BURNED TO DEATH.—On Saturday morning, at a quarter before 3 o'clock, considerable alarm was created in the vicinity of Portman-square, in consequence of loud cries of "Fire" proceeding from the house of Mrs. A. J. Pochin, a lady of property, situate at No. 17, Lower Seymour-street. In a very brief period the police on duty in the neighbourhood entered the house, when the whole of the bedding and drapery in the second floor front were found wrapt in a general blaze. The engines arrived in quick succession, and the firemen having set to work, they succeeded in getting the mastery over the flames, but unfortunately not until Mrs. Pochin was so frightfully burned that the flesh upon some portions of her body when touched peeled off. A medical gentleman was promptly in attendance, who did everything that the nature of the case required, but so seriously was she burned that not the least hopes were entertained of her surviving through Sunday night. The premises and furniture were considerably damaged by fire and heat. From the fact of a book and candlestick being found in bed, it is supposed that Mrs. Pochin was reading in bed, and that she must have fallen asleep, and until she became surrounded with flames was unconscious of what had happened.—*Sun*.

HENRY ROBERT HEASMAN, the engineer of the "Cricket" steam-boat, against whom a verdict of "manslaughter" was returned on last Friday night, has contrived to escape. It appears that at his examination on Friday last, he gave his address at No. 8, Temple-lane, Fleet-street; but on Inspector Marsh, F division, proceeding to the house in question, he found that the witness had given a false address, no such person being known there. No clue has as yet been obtained by the police to his retreat.

LOUIS PHILIPPE'S LAST VICTIM.

(From *Jerrold's Newspaper*.)

It was with much concern for poor Queen Pomare that we read the subjoined paragraph:—

The *Semaine* states that a professor of the University, sent out to Oceania by the Government, is charged to give to Queen Pomare lessons in the French language, which she already speaks and writes with a certain correctness. She is also being taught the first elements of arithmetic, of geography, and history. "The Queen," says the above journal, "shows such intelligence and penetration in her studies, that it is to be regretted that her mind was not sooner cultivated."

The intention of Louis Philippe is here made plain enough. The poor Sandwich Queen is another victim for the Ogre of Peace. Pomare will follow Isabella. She is to be taught French, that Louis Philippe may give her the benefit of his paternal advice. The professor of the Paris University is to prepare her for destruction, and then the King of the French will write letters to her doomed Majesty. There is but little doubt either that an ambassador extraordinary will be sent out to Oceania. It is, to be sure, unfortunate that Louis Philippe has no unmarried son; nevertheless he may have a husband in his benevolent eye for Pomare, her present mate being by all accounts a most disreputable fellow. Indeed, this very circumstance may have especially moved Louis Philippe towards the Oceanic Queen, his Majesty having always manifested such paternal tenderness in the cause of ill-used, mismatched women.

That Pomare should be taught the first elements of arithmetic by order of Louis Philippe is so kind, and so like himself: it is only a repetition of his benevolence towards Isabella; for how completely has he taught her, since her marriage, this first element of arithmetic—namely, that one and one are—two!

And the Queen is to learn geography. This is gratifying; as her Majesty, when robbed of her country, will at least have the satisfaction of knowing the latitude and longitude of her lost possession—with its due bearing from France.

The Queen, moreover, is to study history. But we doubt not that Louis Philippe has, with the kindest possible motive, commanded the professor to say no syllable of Spain.

THE DEPTFORD MURDER.—SENTENCE OF DEATH.—On Thursday, at the Central Criminal Court, John Hutchings, a cooper of Deptford, was tried for the murder of his wife, by poisoning her with arsenic. There was no direct proof that Hutchings had administered the poison; but he had been heard to threaten the woman; on the 27th August he had broken open his son's drawer, and had taken out a bottle of arsenic; he was seen to throw some into the fire, and he gave the phial to one of his children to fling away; the wife was taken ill on the same day. Mr. Baron Platt summed up favourably to the accused, and the jury deliberated for nearly two hours; but the verdict was "guilty," and the sentence of death was pronounced.

EDUCATION OF THE POOR.—MUNIFICENT BEQUEST.—One of the "merchant princes," Mr. Alexander Hermitage, has left nearly £60,000 to endow a hospital for the "education, clothing, and, if necessary, the support of poor children of both sexes" in the city.

THE TEMPLE OF JUGGERNAUT.—THE RAJAH OF SATTARA.—On Wednesday a Quarterly Court of Proprietors of East India stock was held at the East India-house; Mr. Tucker in the chair. The grant of £1,000 a year to Sir G. Pollock was confirmed. Mr. Poynder then brought forward a motion that no further pecuniary assistance should be extended towards the Temple of Juggernaut, which he held to be inconsistent with their character as Christian rulers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis. The Chairman defended the pecuniary grant on the ground that the aid was inferred, if not positively stated, in the treaty made by Sir Arthur Wellesley, after the conquest of Cuttack by Colonel Harper. He hoped the hon. member would withdraw his motion. Mr. Poynder could not think of doing so; and, after some observations from Mr. Sullivan, the Chairman, Mr. Poynder, Mr. Prinsep, Mr. Thompson, and Sir James Law Lushington, the Court divided, when there appeared for the motion, 4; against it, 40. Mr. Lewis then brought the case of the Rajah of Sattara before the Court. The hon. gentleman, as a further evidence of the Rajah's innocence, read extracts from letters written by Major Carpenter, to whose care the Rajah was consigned in 1840. The Major said:—

I carefully studied the whole of the voluminous documents connected with his case, and the result was, a belief in his innocence; and this belief has been confirmed beyond a doubt by subsequent disclosures, and by his pledging himself to prove it, if permitted to do so, in his letter to Sir Henry Hardinge of the 12th of December, 1844, forwarded through me, and which pledge, I am fully persuaded, he is able to redeem.

Mr. Lewis contended that the only way that would satisfy the friends of the Rajah or the public in general was a full and ample investigation into all the circumstances of his case. He concluded with a motion to the effect—"That certain letters (naming them), but more particularly a letter from the Rajah to the Governor-general of India, dated the 12th December, 1844, be printed for the use of the proprietors." The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Fielder hoped that the constant agitation of the question might be checked. Mr. Marriott trusted that the proprietors would hear no more of it, and that it would be settled in Parliament. Mr. George Thompson supported the motion, and reiterated in strong terms his former charges against Colonel Ovens. Mr. Fielder said such attacks upon an honourable officer ought not to pass unnoticed. The Chairman intimated that Mr. Thompson's own feelings must guide him in the matter; for, much as he (the Chairman) disapproved of such reflections, he could not prevent them. A lengthened discussion, presenting no new features, then took place, which resulted in an alteration of Mr. Lewis's motion, which was put and carried, after the Chairman engaging to produce all the papers in the possession of the Court of Directors.

IRELAND.

THE IRISH POOR-LAW COMMISSION.—Mr. William Stanley, late secretary to the relief commission, has received the appointment of secretary to the Irish poor-law commissioners, and has entered upon the duties of that office. Mr. O'Flanagan has been appointed to the office of poor-law inspector.

RELIEF DEPOTS FOR THE WINTER.—Government have given orders to have all the stores in Ireland, which they held when Sir Robert Peel was in office, re-taken, and prepared for food in the coming winter, as, notwithstanding the assertion "that the crisis is over," they have grounds for anticipating scarcity before the harvest of 1848 in Ireland.—*Limerick Reporter.*

RELIEF TAXATION.—LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—The following important communication has been received from Lord John Russell, in reply to a memorial from the guardians of the Carrickmacross union:—

"Downing-street, Sept. 20, 1847.

"SIR,—I am desired by Lord John Russell to acknowledge the receipt of your letter inclosing the memorial of the poor-law guardians of the Carrickmacross union.

"Lord John Russell has directed me to say, that by the orders of the Treasury no repayment under the Temporary Relief Act will be required during the present year, when the rates for the current expenditure under the poor-law equal or exceed three shillings in the pound.

"When the rates fall short of that amount it does not appear that a very ruinous burden is imposed on the owners and occupiers of land.

"In such cases, therefore, a rate of 3s. will have to be levied, of which a portion will be applicable to the repayment of the sums advanced by the Treasury.

"In this country, the rates for the relief of the poor have, in periods of scarcity, frequently exceeded 5s. and 6s. in the pound, and no portion of those rates have ever been paid by the people of Ireland.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
"Thomas Bartley, Esq." "CHARLES GREY."

EXECUTIONS FOR MURDER IN CLONMEL.—The *Tipperary Free Press* of Saturday, contains the following:—"On yesterday (Tuesday), at eleven o'clock, the extreme penalty of the law was carried into execution in front of the county gaol on Michael Ryan (Gosha), and Thomas Ryan (Rody), who were convicted at the last assizes of the murder of sub-constable Crowley. The unfortunate men were attended by the Rev. Messrs. Power, Henneberry, and O'Connor, who were unremitting in administering spiritual comfort to them in their last moments. The ropes being adjusted in the press room, and the caps placed on their heads, they walked out on the drop, and in a moment were launched into eternity. Neither of the unfortunate men made a declaration as to their guilt or innocence."

DISTRESS.—Complaints are beginning to be heard of the distress resulting from the stoppage of relief. The people of the electoral districts of Castleisland and Ballyneculane, in Kerry, are described as suffering the greatest possible misery from inability to get employment. The proprietors and ratepayers of the district, however, have been stimulated to exertion. They had a meeting last week, and passed resolutions enjoining vigorous exertion and co-operation on the landed proprietors, farmers, and other ratepayers, to find employment for the people; pointing to the Landed Property Act as affording ample encouragement to landlords to set about improving their properties; and organizing a central committee, to meet weekly to consider the most profitable works to be undertaken.

POOR-LAW TAXATION.—On Wednesday a communication was made to the guardians of the Enniscorthy Union, from the Poor-law Commissioners, declaring that unless the rate was levied in the manner required, they would be constrained to dissolve the board, and appoint paid guardians. Two meetings of the refractory board were held last week, when resolutions were adopted with a "unanimity and determination never before surpassed." In Clogheen Union the immediate levy of the rate was decided upon by a majority of six to three. The Macroom board of guardians, on the 18th inst., were occupied with complaints about the enforcement of the poor-rate from the poorer occupiers, when the wealthy ratepayers were allowed to go in arrears. After a short debate a resolution was adopted by the casting vote of the chairman, to have the names of the rich defaulters read out at the weekly meetings of the board. The guardians of the Lowtherstown Poor-law Union, having peremptorily declined striking a rate to repay the Government advances according to the terms prescribed by the Commissioners, have received "notice to quit," accompanied by an intimation that paid officers are to be appointed to discharge the duties which they have neglected to fulfil.

OPPOSITION TO THE PAYMENT OF RENTS.—The *King's County Chronicle* thus reports progress as to the open and determined resistance to the payment of rents. The district referred to is on the borders of Tipperary and King's County:—"It having been reported that a large number of people intended to assemble in the neighbourhood of Moneygall, for the purpose of obstructing the Rev. W. Minchin, of Greenhills, who was about to remove property distrained for rent, Sub-inspector Butler, accompanied by a party of police from Shinrone, proceeded on Monday last to Moneygall, where they were joined by another party from the adjacent stations. Mr. Minchin, accompanied by the police, then proceeded to the scene of operations; but a large crowd of people, which had assembled on the adjoining hills, seemed determined to prevent the rev. gentleman effecting his purpose, their threatening demeanour rendering it obvious that they would not remain quiet spectators of the scene. Under these circumstances Sub-inspector Butler and Captain Andrews, J.P., remonstrated with the people on their improper conduct, but to no effect; Mr. Andrews at length read the riot act, and the police were ordered to load, which had the desired effect, and the people dispersed."

LAND IMPROVEMENT ACT.—This measure for relieving landowners and affording the means of employing the people is at length in effective operation. The *Evening Post* states that "loans to the amount of many thousands are now made weekly under the act."

MEETING OF IRISH MEMBERS.—A meeting of Irish representatives was held on Saturday, at Radley's Hotel,

College-green, Dublin. It was but thinly attended, and was only understood to be a preliminary meeting to the proposed conference of M.P.'s. There were present—Mr. J. O'Connell, M.P.; Alderman O'Brien, M.P.; Mr. J. Reynolds, M.P.; Mr. H. Grattan, M.P.; and Mr. J. Fagan, M.P. The question was, what reply should be made to a letter from Lord Claude Hamilton, in which he states that he was afraid the proposed conference would be made the arena for discussing the question of repeal. After a little discussion an answer was adopted, to the effect that the majority at the proposed meeting would decide what questions should or should not be discussed; and that, if the repeal question was discussed, it could be taken up on a particular day. The meeting adjourned to Thursday, to fix a day early in October for the proposed conference.

STATE OF THE PROVINCES.—After a period of unexampled tranquillity, the old system of agrarian crime is again spreading through the southern provinces. The Limerick, Clare, and Tipperary outrages on person and property are becoming events of daily occurrence; and, as complaints are general of the cessation of all employment by reason of the termination of harvest labour, it is apprehended that this, in conjunction with many other circumstances, will lead to a season of more than average disquiet. Meanwhile the "tenant right" agitation is helping to fan the flame of popular discontent.

A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.—Accidents generally come in cycles to South Shields. Last week a poor man of the name of William Brown, a waterman upon the Tyne, was resting himself at the head of the Half Moon-stairs, when the wind blew a bread baker's sign down; in its descent it caught him a blow on the neck, and knocked him down. He never spoke more, and died on Monday.—Last Monday, a young woman, employed at Messrs. Simons' Colour Factory, while tipsy, fell amongst the machinery and was nearly crushed to pieces by a large stone wheel; she was taken out alive, but died shortly after.—A very old man, of the name of Robert Crozier, a blacksmith, died on the 21st, from an accident which happened a day or two before to him. Some blackguard boys had hidden his saw, he had gone up a ladder to find it, and in coming down, had fallen off the ladder, and pitched upon his head.—On Thursday a little child of the name of Longford, fell out of a four-story window at the Mill-dam, but as little children and drunken men have their own fate, it was not much the worse.—On Saturday, to give a climax to all our misfortunes, we were visited with a destructive fire. It seems a drunken wretch of a woman, with whom a man of the name of Woodham cohabits, would, reason or none, set fire to some straw to clear the chimney of her cottage at Westor. Mr. Goundry, a decent, industrious farmer, had his stack-yard filled with a beautiful crop of corn close by; she set fire to her straw, a spark flew from the chimney, and ignited the corn, and in less than an hour, sixteen ricks of corn were burnt to the ground. The poor fellow is utterly and entirely ruined.—*From our Correspondent.*

THE COST OF ATTEMPTING TO SUPPRESS THE SLAVE-TRADE BY ARMED FORCE.—The *Times* of Monday, after alluding to the frightful mortality among the crews of vessels stationed upon the coast of Africa for the prevention of the slave-trade, says:—"Our friends at Exeter-hall are sometimes fond of portraying in the powerful imagery of language the terrors of an unknown world. When next they take such a text we recommend to them the following description of an English ship in the condition to which it had been reduced for the behests of their philanthropy:—"The whole of the officers, with the exception of the lieutenant and the gunner, were dead or prostrate. The men were dying daily, amidst incessant rain and frequent tornadoes, accompanied with much thunder and lightning; the main deck was crowded with sick, and constantly wet. The moral effects of those scenes became palpable in every countenance, while, from the want of medical attendance (the surgeon and two assistant-surgeons having died), it was impossible to pay attention to the ventilation of the vessel or the comforts of the sick." Out of 160 men this vessel (the *Eden*) lost 110 between the 1st of May and the 1st of December. The returns in this report are given with the greatest accuracy from the pay-books in the office of the Accountant-General. Wherever more particular illustration could be obtained from the medical report it has been added, but, unhappily, the surgeon of the ship was too seldom left to detail his experience. From this cause no information can be gained of the origin and progress of the terrible example in the *Bonetta*, about eight years ago, but when this forsaken vessel was joined by succours, there were found "the commander, master, assistant-surgeon, purser, and twenty-eight seamen and marines, all lying about the deck in a most helpless and melancholy state, three with black vomit, and to all appearance beyond the aid of medicine."

PAUPERISM IN MARYLEBONE.—At a meeting of the Directors and Guardians of the poor of this parish, on Friday, Mr. Thorne stated, that the increase of paupers was so great, that the workhouse could not contain those who applied for relief. There were already 2,067 inmates, besides 6,000 persons who were receiving out-door relief. Mr. Artand attributed the increase of pauperism throughout the country to the false economy of the poor-law in restricting out-door relief. The chairman concurred in the principle of affording out-door relief, which, he said, would confer more comfort on the poor, and be less expensive to the parish. It was carried unanimously, that the matter should be referred to the Rota Committee.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.—It seems from the analysis prefixed to the new edition of the *Parliamentary Companion*, that there are 223 persons in the new Parliament who never had seats before, being the most extensive change since the first reformed Parliament, when there were 280. The House now contains a greater number than on any former occasion of railway directors, engineers, and contractors, barristers, merchants, political writers and lecturers, and retail tradesmen—and a smaller number of naval and military officers, country gentlemen, and persons connected with noble families—a most significant sign of the times undoubtedly.—*Liverpool Albion.*

THE CHARTIST LAND COMPANY.

A correspondent at Hexham writes to us as follows:—"Knowing you to be a true friend to humanity, and one of the best representatives of the people through the press, I feel encouraged to ask your opinion on the scheme of the National Land Company, under the superintendence of Feargus O'Connor, Esq., as to whether it is likely to secure the end proposed—the enfranchisement of its members; a comfortable living for a family who is industrious; and, ultimately, complete possession of your own allotment? Sir, I wish to know if it would be prudent for a working-man to risk his hard-earned £5 in such a scheme? I am aware of the existence of a society called the Electoral League, its primary object being the enfranchisement of its members; yet, in securing this, it makes them householders; while the National Land Company not only holds out the franchise, but a respectable competence; and, in the end, crowns you a landowner."

We are sorry that we cannot fully satisfy our correspondent's reasonable inquiries from our own knowledge of the company referred to; but the following extracts from respectable journals contain statements which, if proved to be correct, will enable him to form a safe conclusion on the subject. If the serious charges thus made can be satisfactorily rebutted, we shall gladly open our columns to any vindication of Mr. O'Connor's scheme.

"One who has Whistled at the Plough"—a writer whose able productions on the free-trade question must be familiar to many of our readers—has made a series of grave objections to the Land Company and Labour Bank, in a letter to the *Manchester Examiner*, which may be thus concisely stated:—

1. That in September, 1846, Mr. O'Connor announced that the Chartist Land Company was actually and duly registered according to law, and then enjoying the full protection of the law; whereas, even now, in September, 1847, it is not so registered and protected.

2. That the company can now never be registered according to law, without becoming liable to have such informations laid against it before the magistrates, by any common informer, for infractions of the law, as will render it liable to aggregate penalties of several thousand pounds, and to the original owners of the estates purchased with its funds becoming capable of resuming their ownership just as if the estates had never been sold.

3. That the company, on the other hand, continuing unregistered, the whole of the land, &c., purchased up to the present hour, is the legal property of Mr. Feargus O'Connor, in whose name the purchases were made, and stands entirely beyond the reach of the shareholders.

4. That in the event meantime of Mr. O'Connor's death, he could not even devise their property back by will to the subscribers, unless by such an expensive process as would amount to sinking the whole.

5. That the lately-projected bank is in just the same predicament.

6. That Mr. O'Connor, as a barrister-at-law, must have been always fully aware of all this.

7. That, notwithstanding, he still goes on placing the money of various parties in this predicament; and has lately so received no less a sum than £620 from one association of operatives, in a single sum.

The following is the concluding portion of the "Whistler's" letter:—

In conclusion, I have only to remark to those of the shareholders of the land scheme, or those of the depositors in the Land and Labour Bank who may read this, that whatever personal abuse Mr. O'Connor may meet the legal facts of this letter with, as he met the facts of the previous five letters in December and January last, such abuse is no answer to the shareholders and depositors. It is for them that these letters are written. I rejoice to see working men acquiring property by their savings. But I have myself dropped too much sweat on the ground in earning wages at ill-paid toil, to be willing to see the hard-earned wages of working men given to spoiled lawyers and noisy adventurers, who, because they can talk all other men dumb, are, in the simplicity of the industrious workers, voted to be men of business and honest. I repeat that if Mr. O'Connor's death occurs at any time before the complete registration of the shareholders as a company, the entire property in the land and in the bank goes by law to his next of kin, for he cannot leave it by will to the company, since the company does not legally exist. And further, that if completed in the registration the entire proceedings up to this time become null and void, having been carried on contrary to law.

The *Nottingham Mercury* is publishing a series of articles, examining the scheme in detail. From its last number we make one or two extracts:—

The first thing that strikes attention in Mr. O'Connor's Balance Sheet is the "great fact" that, though more than £70,000 (say £75,000) had been received up to the period of the publication of this statement, on account of the Land Plan, there was only £28,183 cash in hand for the furtherance of the objects of the Association. It is, however, only just to the "honourable" treasurer to say, that an addition to this cash in hand, deposits have been made on contracts for three other estates to the extent of £2,918; thus showing that £43,899 have been actually expended. It will then be borne in mind, that up to the date of the publication of this Report, the 4th inst., no more than 80 subscribers had been allocated by means of this fund.

We stated in our article of the 10th inst., on the subject of the Land Plan, that to locate 30,000 families in the manner proposed by Mr. O'Connor, would require a subscribed capital of nine millions of money, which was at the rate of £300 per family; the return furnished by Mr. O'Connor himself shows that the location of the 80 families to whom allotments have at present been made has occasioned an outlay of nearly £44,000, which is at the rate of £550 per allottee; whilst a number of useful and even necessary things have been omitted to be done for these colonists, which it is indispensable for their comfort and well-being should be done.

The writer goes on to mention some details of the large outlay incurred:—

In the first place, as respects the buildings, here is no less a sum than *seventeen hundred and seventeen pounds* charged for timber only, for the erection of forty-five cottages for the holders of farms of from two to four acres each; and a school-house for some fifty or sixty children, of all ages and both sexes. Nearly the whole of this large sum of £1,700 is paid to one man, of the name of Tripp. In addition to this account of *seventeen hundred pounds* for timber for these cottages, &c., there is a builder's account, amounting to twelve hundred pounds, independent of a

hundred pounds charged for bricks, lime, and sand, besides carting. Then there is for plumbers' work and ironmongery £256. Then, as the crowning charge of all, *two thousand and sixty-seven pounds* is put down for wages in building these forty-five cottages, and putting less than two hundred acres of land into condition for occupants. Now, if we take half these wages as having been paid for work done in the erection of the cottages, and half the amount affixed to names in the balance sheet where no description is given of the person, save an entry like the following:—"Mr. Chinney, £455, Lyal, £80, &c. &c."—we shall have a gross amount of at least *four thousand six hundred pounds* as the cost to the subscribers to the Land Plan for the building of forty-five dwellings and a school-house; that is, exactly £100 each, without the cost of the land.

Amongst other items enumerated are £84 16s. paid to an auctioneer; £72 to "your bailiff—Mr. O'Connor himself—for land-surveying;" a *hundred pounds* for guano, to try experiments with; and a hundred and eighty pounds for a wheelwright's bill—besides nearly sixty pounds for a tax-cart and a horse and harness; and *fifty pounds* for saddlery and harness. Then there is a pound charged for a letter-bag; and then a charge of £3 for a mastiff.

MR. FEARGUS O'CONNOR.—The new member for Nottingham announces that he has procured a manager for his new bank, at a salary of £400 per annum; he also announces his intention to begin a daily paper called the *Democrat*. It is to be a "morning paper, a domestic paper, a labour paper, a trade paper, a fireside paper, and a Chartist paper."

COLLECTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL SOCIETY UNDER THE QUEEN'S LETTER.—By the returns of collections under the Queen's letter in aid of the National Society for promoting the Education of the Poor on the principles of the Established Church, it appears that the total amount contributed by the diocese of London is £33,853 12s. 3d.

DEATH PUNISHMENT.—A preliminary meeting was held in the Townhall, Carlisle, on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of adopting measures for the establishment of a society to promote the abolition of death punishment. Mr. J. D. Carr was called to the chair; and Dr. R. Elliot, as secretary, detailed the various steps which had already been taken to forward the object. A subscription has been entered into for the purpose; and a number of pamphlets on the subject have been ordered. A sub-committee was formed for preparing a scheme for the distribution of the pamphlets, and the diffusion of information on the question. It was also agreed that meetings should be held weekly, until the proposed society should be regularly constituted. The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, the 28th inst.—*Carlisle Journal*. The following placard will show the state of the public mind in Dundee regarding capital punishments:

WORKING MEN OF DUNDEE, DO NOT GO TO THE EXECUTION OF THOMAS LEITH.

To-morrow the disgusting spectacle of a public execution will be exhibited in Dundee. It is time that scenes so degrading to the dignity of human nature should cease, and that a decisive testimony should be borne by the community that capital punishments, for whatever crime, should be abolished, and something more efficient for the good of the public, as well as of the offender, substituted in their room. As a means of bearing this testimony, do you, working men of Dundee, by universally absenting yourselves on the present occasion, show that public opinion in this town is against capital punishments. Such procedure on your part will reflect honour on yourselves, and tell powerfully both on the legislature and the community, and do much towards changing the law of the country on this subject.—A WORKING MAN.

UNCLAIMED VALUABLES.—An official return has been printed, showing the number of letters now lying in the General Post-office, containing coins, bank-notes, bills of exchange, or other property. This return shows that 4,201 such letters are lying in the Dead Letter-office, containing property valued at the almost incredible sum of £40,410 5s. 7d.; this too has accrued during the last three years. For the system pursued in such cases is, that when all inquiry after the destination of the misdirected letters is found unavailing, the letters are kept three years to give time for application for them, after which period so much of the property as consists of money is paid into the revenue, and this has been done up to the beginning of 1844. Any other description of property is periodically sold, and the proceeds also paid into the revenue. The articles now lying for claimants are of the most varied character, some of them of a bulk and description little calculated for transmission per post. There are trinkets of all kinds, silver spoons by the dozen, spectacles, watches, waistcoats, shirts, soda powders, artificial flowers, books, snuff-boxes, fiddle-strings, dish-mats, petticoats, old clothes, fishing-flies, razors, pictures, night-gowns, a clarinet, brass weights, buttons, window-curtains, a whistle, a Prayer and other books, bunches of keys, brad-awls, scissors, and a panorama.

OUTRAGE ON MESSRS. DOUGLASS AND GARRISON.—Mr. Frederick Douglass has given the following account of a meeting held at Harrisburg, in Pennsylvania:—"At the time appointed, Mr. Garrison was present, and commenced the meeting by a calm statement of facts respecting the character of slavery and the slave power, showing in how many ways it was a matter deeply affecting the rights and interests of the northern people. He spoke with little or no interruption for the space of an hour, and then introduced me to the audience. I spoke only for a few moments, when through the window was poured a volley of unmercantable eggs, scattering the contents on the desk in which I stood, and upon the wall behind me, and filling the room with the most disgusting and stifling stench. The audience appeared alarmed, but disposed to stay, though greatly at the expense of their olfactory nerves. I, thinking I could stand it as well as my audience, proceeded with my speech, but in a very few minutes we were interrupted by the explosion of a pack of crackers, which kept up a noise for about a minute similar to the discharge of pistols, and being on the ladies' side, created much excitement and alarm. When this subsided, I again proceeded, but was at once interrupted again by

another volley of added eggs, which again scented the house with slavery's choice incense. Cayenne pepper and Scotch snuff were freely used, and produced their natural results among the audience. I proceeded again, and was again interrupted by another grand influx of rotten eggs. One struck friend Garrison on the back, sprinkling its essence all over his honoured head. At this point a general tumult ensued, the people in the house became much disturbed and alarmed, and there was a press towards the doorway, which was completely wedged with people. The mob was now howling with fiendish rage. I could occasionally hear, amid the tumult, fierce and bloody cries, 'Throw out the nigger, throw out the nigger.' Here friend Garrison rose, with that calm and tranquil dignity altogether peculiar to himself, and said—(speaking for himself and me)—'Our mission in Harrisburg is now ended.'

THE EDINBURGH AND NORTHERN RAILWAY, extending from Burntisland to Cupar, was formally opened on the 17th.

APPROACH OF WINTER.—On Sunday, the top of Ben Lomond and neighbouring hills were covered with snow.—*North British Mail*.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, September 29.

ACCIDENT TO VISCOUNT MORPETH.—We regret to state, that the noble First Commissioner of the Woods and Forests met with a serious accident last week by a fall from his horse, which has since confined him to his room at Castle Howard. It appears his lordship's horse stumbled and threw him, by which he sustained some contusions on his face, and other bruises. His lordship, we are happy to state, according to accounts received at Carlisle-house yesterday, was going on favourably.

THE QUEEN held a Privy Council yesterday afternoon at her Majesty's marine residence, Osborne, Isle of Wight. A form of thanksgiving for the late abundant harvest was ordered.

MORE FAILURES.

The suspension of Messrs. Perkins, Schlusser, and Mullens, a firm largely engaged in the Baltic and East India trade, was announced yesterday. The liabilities amount to about £250,000, and the stoppage has been caused by the non-receipt of remittances (or rather, by the receipt of remittances to the extent of £25,000 on failed houses) from a house at Calcutta, whose paper Messrs. Perkins and Co. have accepted to the amount of £50,000. It is most positively asserted, however, that the creditors will receive payment in full. Letters from Manchester report the failure of Mr. Armstrong, a cotton dealer, with liabilities estimated at from £60,000 to £80,000. The *Manchester Examiner* says:—"We have to announce the stoppage of four Manchester firms—Messrs. Stocks and Tait, bleachers, &c.; Mr. J. Armstrong, cotton dealer and spinner; Mr. James Guest, manufacturer; and Mr. F. H. Glover, foreign merchant. The liabilities of the first of these Manchester houses are stated to be under £30,000; those of the second firm are said to be considerably larger, £8,000 being due to Liverpool cotton brokers. Mr. Guest's liabilities are spoken of as above £70,000, of which £40,000 are due to Mr. Armstrong's firm; £7,000 to £8,000 are also said to be owing to an agent here. The failure of Messrs. Stocks and Tait is said to be the cause of Mr. Glover's inability to meet his engagements. The effect of these failures on the market has been to cause an almost total stagnation of business."

A second meeting of the parties interested in the affairs of Sanderson and Co. took place yesterday, at which it transpired that the bills bearing the responsibility of the firm which have run off since the meeting on the 20th inst. have amounted to £150,000, and that the whole (with the exception of a small portion taken on account of Lesley Alexander and Co.) have been duly paid.

The *Liverpool Mercury* announces the failure of Mr. Wm. Atherton, of New Brighton. His liabilities are said to reach £30,000, against which a heavy value in property is pledged, and consequently the sum owing to general or uncovered creditors is small. His losses arise from speculations in shares and cotton.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Marshal Soult has been appointed Marshal-General of France.

One, only, out of the twenty-four Parisian journals, defends the appointment of the Duke d'Aumale to the Governor-Generalship of Algeria, and that is the court organ!

Our Paris letter (says the *Times*) puts an end to all apprehension on the subject of an union between Narvaez and Salamanca, for it states, on questionable authority, that "the former is so disgusted with the turn affairs have taken, that he may be expected in Paris in the course of five or six days." M. Gurra, Aide-de-Camp and Private Secretary of General Espartaco, had arrived in Madrid, with a letter from the General to his Sovereign, which, it appears, was most graciously received. The continued presence of Narvaez in Madrid was still regarded with suspicion. There are again rumours of a change of ministry, chiefly arising from the belief that General Serrano had at length been bought over to the French party.

The *Cologne Gazette* publishes the following letter from Berlin of the 22nd inst.:—"We already announced that several Russian diplomatists had been summoned to St. Petersburg. We now learn that the Prince of Prussia will likewise visit that capital immediately after his return from the Rhine. This circumstance authorizes us to believe that serious questions are to be discussed at St. Petersburg."

There is no ground for doubting the good faith of the Grand Duke of Tuscany to the promises he has made to his subjects. The regulations proposed for the organization of the national guard, which seemed

likely to be unacceptable, were voluntarily withdrawn, and that body is to be established in Tuscany on the same footing as in the pontifical States.

The following extract, from the Roman correspondence of the *Daily News*, is quite conclusive as to the illegality of Austria occupying the town of Ferrara:—

In the official *latin* copy of the treaty of Vienna the word *place*, which is vague and undefined, is rendered by the very stringent and circumscribed term *Arx* (citadel). Now, in the topological work of Baudrand, current in Italy, the town is thus distinguished from the citadel: Ferrara *urbs amplissima arcem habet præmunitam*. The walls of the town have been long since dismantled, and the fortress, which alone is alluded to in the treaty, was a distinct substitute, created by Urban VIII. (Barberini), in 1629. So true is this, that the circumference of old fosses and broken down ramparts is farmed out by the municipality to cattle graziers and vegetable growers, and the Austrian commandant of the citadel, wishing for a portion in which to exercise his troops, *had to pay rent for it*, and paid it last year; while he takes rent for the grazing of his own ditches and earthworks round the fortress. Can anything be more conclusive? Count Rossi is openly allied in diplomacy with Austria, and is harping on the puerilities of red tape propriety, which Ferretti professes to scorn.

The little republic of San Marino has just converted its Council of State into a Chamber of Representatives, named by all the inhabitants. Its deliberations are to be public.

Persons selected by the popular vote from all the cities of Tuscany and of the duchy of Lucca, enjoying the confidence of the people, are to assemble on the 29th of the present month at Leghorn. On the following day, at 11 a.m., they are to meet in the Palazzo Comunitativo to concert the best measures for carrying out the intentions of the people they represent. On the 1st of October they are to start for Civita Vecchia, on their way to Rome.

From Naples, there are nothing but rumours—the Government endeavouring to prevent information regarding the insurrection from getting abroad. The two Romeos, the insurgent leaders, had, according to the official journal, been brought into Reggio, the one a prisoner, the other dead. Letters from Naples spoke of disturbances in the Abruzzi, and, at the departure of the Neapolitan steamer, there was a rumour abroad that the telegraph had announced fresh disturbances in Palermo.

At the meeting of the Court of Common Council yesterday, Sir Peter Laurie stated that he did not at present intend to press his motion for a grant of money in aid of a fund for the erection of a monument to Shakespeare. He thought it advisable to postpone his motion until the return to town of many on whose support and influence he relied.

THE LATE ACCIDENT ON THE LONDON AND SOUTH-COAST RAILWAY.—This inquest was concluded at Nutbourne yesterday. The following was the verdict of the jury:—"That Samuel Gregory, on the 31st day of May last, was killed by the engine No. 40 running off the line of the London, Brighton, and South-Coast Railway, in the parish of Westbourne, in this county. That such engine was subject to considerable oscillation, which gave it an undulating, swaying, and jumping motion; but whether the engine left the rails in consequence of such motion, or from what other reason, no evidence appears to us. The jury recommend the directors, and the jury hope the recommendation will be attended to, that engines of the construction of No. 40 should not in future be used for passenger trains."

IRISH AGRICULTURE.—The Lord Lieutenant has originated a project for affording practical instruction to the working farmers throughout the country, by lectures, to be delivered at convenient localities, on the most improved systems of husbandry. He has subscribed £50, and the Duke of Leinster £50, to promote the good work.

EXPIRING AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.—The annual ploughing match of the Arundel and Rape of Bramber Agricultural Association took place yesterday morning, at Arundel-park farm. There was a very thin attendance, and it seemed quite evident, from the equally limited number that assembled round the festive board at the Norfolk Arms, that these associations are gradually dying away, and if anything were wanting to confirm us in this opinion, it was the absence of the Duke of Norfolk himself. There were about forty persons present, not ten of whom were farmers. The Earl of Arundel and Surrey, who took the chair, said that on examining the accounts, the committee found that it would be quite impossible to carry it on. This association was not the only one that had declined, for at the West Grinstead Association he found that only twenty-five were present, and at Goodwood he was told that only ten were present. He supposed that that which was agreeable a few years ago was not so now, and that the novelty had worn off.

IRISH ELECTION PETITIONS.—If general report be correct, there is a tolerably fair share of work cut out for the Parliamentary lawyers during the ensuing session. There is, in the first place, the Dublin petition against the return of Mr. John Reynolds, the promoters of which are all but certain of recovering the seat for Mr. W. H. Gregory. Secondly, Mr. Cornelius O'Brien, the rejected of Clare, means to impeach the return of Sir Lucius O'Brien, which, it is alleged, was carried by brute force and intimidation. Thirdly, the friends of Major Layard, the unsuccessful candidate for the borough of Carlisle, are busily engaged in laying the ground-work of a "case" against the election of Mr. Sadler, whose agents are charged with having resorted to undue influences. And, fourthly, the *Athlone Sentinel* "is in a position to state, on information the most authentic, that the petition against the return of Mr. Keogh will be vigorously prosecuted."—*Times*.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON.—WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29.

Our supplies of English grain and flour are very short this week, but of Foreign again very good. The trade this morning is very firm for every article, at fully Monday's prices. Arrivals this week:—Wheat, 2,610 English, 19,890 Foreign; Barley, 1,930 English, 4,310 Foreign; Oats, 560 English, 31,790 Foreign; Flour, 1,250 sacks, 3,810 barrels.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.

For Eight Lines and under 5s. 0d.

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The terms of subscription are 6s. 6d. per Quarter, 13s. for Half-a-year, or 26s. per Annum, exclusive of the three extra numbers in May. In future all parties paying One Year's subscription in advance (to the Publisher direct), will be entitled to the extra numbers in May gratis, and ministers of religion will be allowed a considerable reduction. Post-Office Orders payable to CHARLES MIALL.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"T. T." The lines are not quite suitable to our columns.

"A Worker in the Election." We think he is over-sensitive. The document was addressed exclusively to Dissenters, and was written by one who had, we are convinced, no thought nor desire of producing a wrong impression. It might, perhaps, have properly noticed what did not exactly fall within its own sphere; but it ought not to be concluded, that in failing to do so the writer, or the committee, intended any slight. We think it best to leave the matter where it is.

"Philo." Declined.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FOR THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM BIDWELL.

	£	s.	d.
Fifty friends of religious liberty in Thame and neighbourhood, per Mr. Barry	3	0	0
From a few Nonconformist Friends, per Mr. T. Fells, Margate	0	17	6
Mr. M. Jones, Leominster	0	5	0
Mr. W. Mainwaring	0	3	0
Mr. J. Mainwaring	0	2	6
Mr. W. Kinnersly, Ludlow	0	3	0
Rev. T. Davies, do.	0	2	6
Mr. J. Southall, Leominster	0	2	6
Mr. S. Southall, do.	0	2	6
Mr. E. Southall, do.	0	2	6
Smaller sums	0	6	6
S. B. C., Dorchester	0	1	0

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29, 1847.

SUMMARY.

SINCE our last, two or three more failures of important firms have been announced, but the clouds, which, for some time back, lowered so ominously over the money market, exhibit appearances of passing away, and glimpses of sunlight proclaim that the worst hour of doubt and dismay is over. It is hoped, and we believe seriously expected by leading capitalists, that we have got through the last monetary crisis with which we are likely to be visited for some time—perhaps some years, and that we have before us a prospect of gradual and permanent improvement. If so, there is the less reason for enforcing the policy recommended to railway directors by the Liverpool capitalists; to suspend works now in progress, or refrain from entering upon new lines sanctioned by Act of Parliament. The remedy recommended is one which, it appears to us, pays little regard to the inconveniences which it may inflict upon labour. In many of the small branch lines, now in the course of construction, the bulk of the workmen consists of agricultural labourers belonging to the districts through which the lines pass, and the relief which the employment of these men occasions to an overstocked labour-market, as well as the improvement of wages which it has a tendency to secure, contributes not a little to the diffusion of comfort amongst a large class hitherto but little acquainted with it. We think the directors will do wisely to demur to the advice of straitened capitalists, which could only be taken at the expense of honest industry. It is clear that there is sufficient surplus labour for the carrying on, without inconvenience, of these vast undertakings. It has become certain, too, since the harvest, that there will be a sufficiency of food upon which for labour to subsist. The question, therefore, occurs—why should this bounty of Providence be hindered from flowing through its natural channels, and resulting in works of unquestionable utility? We can discover no reply to this which does not reflect some discredit upon our monetary system. The obstruction is an artificial, not natural one, and the loudest outcry against proceeding with railway undertakings comes, as might have been anticipated, from that quarter in which the restrictions of monopoly are found to be incompatible with the expanding engagements of the empire.

Irish landlords have begun to speak words of defiance to the Government through the mouths of boards of guardians. Lowtherstown, Enniscorthy, Nenagh, and some other unions, are growling at the demand made upon them by the Poor-law Commissioners for re-payment of the loan made under the Temporary Relief Act. Irish tenants have caught the infection, gendered by the bad example of their landlords. Messrs. Lalor and Doheny convened some time last week a meeting of farm occupants at Holy-cross. 4,000 of them, it is said, were gathered together, and resolved upon adopting forthwith the Ulster tenant right. Their policy, favourable as it would be to themselves, has few pretensions to benefit the nation at large. The existing tenants are to have a right to perpetual occupation, at a rent agreed upon by a jury chosen from their own body, which right they may transfer for a consideration to other parties. 'Tis a capital plan for those who happen to hold farms at the present moment. Men not in that enviable position rather lose a chance, than gain any advantage by it. The resolution, however, has not become law, nor is it likely to be. But the feeling it expresses spreads rapidly throughout Ireland; and whatever course legislation may hereafter take will go far to

embarrass an already bankrupt proprietary, and prove to them how much easier it is to set an example of repudiation, than to limit its influence by saying to it, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther."

Illustrations of the bad working of all schemes of State education in actual operation are constantly crowding upon us. Whether we look to America, France, Prussia, or Holland, the same unsatisfactory results are visible, and have long been pointed out by acute and careful observers. Let the system be ever so fairly constructed—where is the warrant for its being preserved intact? Its advocates speak of the advantages of an equitable plan of secular State education, as though it were practicable in this country. They imagine that Government may be induced to give up the present sectarian for a more comprehensive system—that the Church will at length be thrown overboard, and that no religious opinions will be known in dispensing the aid of the State. Strange delusions, so completely at variance with experience! There is Canada for instance, where the secular system has long been in operation. Do the Colonial authorities strive to preserve it from any taint of sectarianism? Quite the contrary. An attempt is made to apportion the funds of the University created for all amongst three favoured sects, with no other ascertainable motive than to increase the power of the present Government and to purchase the support of the favoured sects at the coming election. For the present the scheme has been defeated by the energy of its opponents, but only, in all probability, to be revived afresh. Nothing daunted by this rebuff, the executive propose to take a step further in the same direction. The Common Schools are to be squeezed into more manageable dimensions. Their popular constitution is to be destroyed. Their management is to be brought more directly within the sphere of political influence. They are in fact to be made parts of a machine, of which the dominant party are to have the control, and to be modelled afresh to admit of the ecclesiastical element in their composition. The article extracted in another column from the *Toronto Banner*, explains more in detail the tendency of this proposed reform. Thus, while in England we are constructing fine-spun theories of State education, with the view of lessening as much as possible the centralizing power of Government, the rulers of Canada are setting aside a plan, with every claim to equality, and really under popular control, because it is too liberal, and are replacing it with one which will turn the whole system into an engine of political influence and sectarian ascendancy. Can we, then, in the face of these warnings, welcome, like Sinbad, this old man, in the shape of Government interference, to our shoulders, when we must be aware that, with or without our consent, he will become so oppressive that we shall at length sink under the invited burden? Whilst on this subject, we have great pleasure in stating that the supporters of the Normal School at Brecon have resolved to depend for support exclusively upon the voluntary system. The Dissenters of Wales are too wise to put themselves within the power of Government by accepting their aid.

The Free-trade Congress at Brussels has been followed by a Congress on Penal Discipline. Full reports have not appeared in our public papers; but from all that we can gather from the sayings and doings of this assembly, the question of secondary punishments remains, as Lord John Russell phrased it, "a problem yet to be solved." We learn from the Inspector of Prisons in Great Britain, that our own Government have resolved upon a threefold method of penal discipline—a period of separate confinement in the first place, to be succeeded by hard labour in the second, and to be closed by exile to some one or other of our colonies. It is impossible to foretell how this plan will work. It combines the elements of correction and of punishment; and it holds out in the far distance a prospect of recovery and independence. But it is, as yet, little more than theory. The combination may prove advantageous; and, unquestionably, will turn out expensive. If efficient, the money it will require will be well spent—if inefficient, the waste will be enormous. Little as we have gleaned from the Congress at Brussels, we cannot look without interest or satisfaction upon such gatherings for discussion. It is throwing into one common fund, for the benefit of each, the wisdom and experience of all nations; and it is a mode of giving wide publication to new ideas, which can hardly fail of assimilating, by degrees, the policy and practice of all European states.

The Austrian Kaiser has consulted "discretion, the better part of valour," by leaving unexecuted his designs upon the independence of Italy. The Pope has gained a bloodless triumph, in which not only his own subjects, but the whole peninsula has shared. It is stated, by the *Nuremberg Correspondent*, that the Ferrara question is in fact terminated, for that a dysentery has broken out among the troops in that garrison, which has compelled the commander to discontinue the posts at the city gates, for want of men. Thus it is implied that the troops will now be limited to the occupation of the citadel. The *status quo* previously to the present dispute will thus be re-established. Alas! that the consequences of the popular demonstrations then evoked cannot be also set aside. Simple Metternich! to imagine that the spirit thus raised would be as easily laid! That all fear of hostilities has been dissipated, we do not pretend to say. No doubt there will be much diplomatic contention in arranging the affairs of the Grand Duchy of Lucca, and other states, hitherto subservient to Austrian dictation. But the

two great facts cannot be set aside. Metternich is beaten, and he knows it. The greater portion of the Italian peninsula has cast off the Austrian yoke, and will never return to it. The prestige of success which has attended that minister's possession of power has departed. It is impossible to predict what important consequences will result from the revolution thus quietly enacted, or how far the work of reform, and the progress of freedom, will be quickened in the Italian States, in Switzerland, in Germany, and in Austria itself—now that the great power who held supreme sway over the lesser potentates of Europe has been held up to the scorn of mankind, as a bully and a coward.

A NEW WAY TO PAY OLD DEBTS.

"Base is the slave that pays."

IRELAND again! Heigho! Every thing connected with our unfortunate sister is disheartening. We display sympathy, and she takes advantage of our feelings. We threaten severity, and she deliberately shakes her fist at our fears. How is it? Is human nature in Ireland more wayward than elsewhere? Can climate, can past history, can present circumstances, wholly account for the moral phenomena which she exhibits? Or do we misjudge, and confound things that differ? The latter supposition seems the most probable—and looking at things instead of words will go far to confirm us in the conjecture.

In its relation to government, more especially at the present moment, it must not be forgotten that that to which we give the collective name of Ireland, is merely a class, and not a very numerous one, upon whom we have, for generations past, conferred the exclusive privileges of monopolists. Almost the sole possessors of property in the sister isle, the landlords have assumed the place of the nation, and, unhappily, have been dealt with accordingly. We have pampered them into insolence. We have helped to develop unnaturally their selfishness. We have made laws for their convenience at the expense of every dictate of humanity. We have winked at their extravagance. We have cried "Poor creature!" at every fresh instance of their embarrassment. We have lent them money which we have never reclaimed—taken upon us their burdens—excused them all the obligations of their relationship—armed them with powers of law which no class ought to possess—deferred to them, menaced them, kissed them, entreated them, until, like a spoiled child, they may fairly throw their own bad habits in our teeth, and reproach us, in answer to our complaints of their irregularity and ingratitude, with our negligent indulgence in our mode of bringing them up. And we, as if bereft of all power of discrimination, talk of the misdeeds of this pet class, as the misdeeds of Ireland. Well! we have made our bed, and we must lie in it.

The Irish landlords are now beginning to lay at our feet the retribution which our unjust partiality towards them was sure, in the long run, to provoke. It seems to be a law of Divine Providence, that none shall mar the elements of good in man's nature, whether by cruelty or by kindness, without smarting under an appropriate penalty. Social principles habitually slighted take up a position of self-defence—and vindicate themselves from our contumely by making the idols of our fondness the instruments of our punishment. We have done violence to all reason, justice, experience, and religion in the partiality we have discovered to Irish landlords in our Imperial legislation—and, as the fruit of our folly, we have Irish landlordism as the main obstacle in the way of Hibernian regeneration. Ministers, we are told, are more embarrassed at the prospect now before them, than they were when the famine of last winter stared them in the face. Even statesmen, although not usually blessed with a large measure of faith, must occasionally be forced to confess how much better it is to fall into the hands of God than of man. For our parts, we can readily believe the rumour current respecting the straits of her Majesty's advisers—and we see in it nothing but a confirmation of our opinion as to the unvarying operation of great moral and providential laws. But we are forgetting our subject.

The Guardians of the Lowtherstown Poor Law Union declined striking a rate to repay Government advances according to the terms prescribed by the Poor-law Commissioners. These latter functionaries, consequently, transmitted an order for the dissolution of the Board. In doing so, they took the liberty of tendering to the refractory landowners some wholesome expositions of the first principles of honesty. They reminded these most disinterested guardians of the poor of the stringent conditions under which they had obtained an advance of public money, and of their own consent given to those conditions. They proceeded after this fashion—"That the guardians, therefore, having received money on those terms, and having expended it, should now decline to act in accordance with their solemn moral obligations, and should merely offer to pay their debts by six yearly instalments, appears to the Commissioners inconsistent with that honesty in pecuniary transactions which ought to be one of the leading principles both of individuals and of public bodies." They then demonstrated that the amount of the rate which the guardians were required to make, for repayment of the advances under the Temporary Relief Act, did not, in any electoral division, exceed 1s. 10d. in the pound—and in one division was as low as 9d. in the pound—which,

added to their own estimate of 10d. in the pound for ordinary expenses, would make but 2s. 10d. in the pound, for all purposes, in the heaviest rated electoral division of the Union. Such a letter would have shamed most men. It had just the opposite effect upon Irish landowners—the pets of our Legislature. They submit to be lectured by public officers! They reminded of what is due to their own character! What, Irishmen! Irish landlords! Never! So they clap their hands, in fancy, upon the hilt of their swords, and say, "We must express our unanimous opinion, that you have exceeded your duty in *presuming* to write to any board of guardians your opinion of what moral obligations, and of what honesty or dishonesty may consist in, and in doing so have taken advantage of your official position to use language to a public board which, in a private capacity, you dare not use to them as private individuals." This is pretty well! But your landowner of the true Parliamentary breed in Ireland is not satisfied with doing his work by halves. Her Majesty's Ministers were therefore memorialized, and the significant hint delicately conveyed to them, that "if the rate, demanded by their lordships, be attempted to be levied in the present distressed state of the country, a system of resistance (induced solely by inability to pay)"—that is, 2s. 10d. in the pound, at the utmost—"would be originated, which at future periods it would be difficult to suppress."

It may, perhaps, be expected that the effrontery which responds to an application for the honest payment of a debt by a covert challenge to the Poor-law Commissioners to exchange shots, and by a threat to the Government to organize a system of resistance, will provoke our heartiest denunciations. In good sooth, we have nothing to say in favour of this "new way to pay old debts," in itself considered, nor can we attempt to justify it; but our anger is stirred into quite as fierce a heat against the teachers as against the taught of this kind of morality. Parents have small right to reproach their own brats with deformity.

Who, then, we ask, made Irish landlords what they are? *Nemo repente fuit turpissimus*. To such depths of baseness men do not leap at a bound. Who fostered this impudence? Who enticed the class to frequent those regions of dishonesty? Who rewarded past efforts of this kind? Who spoke big, and then relented—swore vengeance, and then asked pardon—smote with words of menace, and then healed the wound with new grants of power? Who, in the present instance, by succumbing to the bluster of the "Irish party," consented to swamp boards of guardians with *ex officio* members, and took care that though the hands might be the hands of Esau, the voice should continue to be the voice of Jacob? Who remitted a moiety of the loan for feeding Ireland, and for fattening Irish rapacity? Who did all this, with facts before their eyes that might have made wise men pause, and warnings ringing in their ears loud enough to stun all but the wilfully deaf? Who? The Government, and the Legislature—the landlord interest in high places—the power which is now bearded, and, unless the public look sharp, will gladly suffer itself to be bearded with effect. A faithful history of Irish landlordism, collected from Acts of Parliament passed in their favour during the last hundred and fifty years, and always carried into effect without mercy, would exhibit, we verily believe, a picture of heartlessness—an embodiment of selfish, inconsiderate, all-grasping rapacity—such as the legal records of few countries could parallel. Here, then, is the original sin, which now comes out in such unsightly blotches. We have pampered monopoly into a state of loathsome disease, and we have no right to take offence at the consequences of our own folly.

The case of the Lowtherstown guardians is not a singular one. It may differ from others in some of its outward features, but the social malady, in all its essential characteristics, is prevalent in the south, and south-west of the isle. Happily a putrid state in the moral as well as in the physical world breeds the vermin which destroy it. The repudiating dishonesty of landlords has given birth to swarms of rent-repudiators; and they who scorn to pay their honest debts will soon find work enough in getting their own. The cry for tenant right—or, as interpreted by those who utter it, the transference of property in the soil from the few who now nominally hold it to the many who actually occupy it—is swelling and advancing like a relentless tide. Men threatening resistance to the collection of rates in repayment of money borrowed by them from the public purse are destined, it seems, to be paid in their own coin, and estate bailiffs as well as taxgatherers will take more in kicks than in halfpence. John Bull, of course, will come in for not a little of the bother and expense of this social disorganization; but if only he is at last convinced of the folly and wickedness of class-favouritism, and learn to respect man more than property, he, perhaps, will have ultimate reason to be glad that he could not escape unhurt, and will bless the day when Irish landowners boldly resorted to "a new way to pay old debts."

COLONIAL INIQUITIES.

BRITISH GUIANA.—HONDURAS.

WE fear the disposition is far from uncommon amongst our countrymen, even those who evince in other respects a Christian patriotism, to consider colonial grievances as an intolerable bore. The blood which boils up in indignation at the detail of oppression close at hand is as tranquil as sleep when the tale relates to men living on the other side of the

equator. Our sympathies are geographical—or else we fancy that, in a torrid clime, where snakes and mosquitoes threaten and annoy, tyranny loses much of its hideousness, and sin, like vegetation, must be expected to grow luxuriant and rank. The hardy and courageous few, vanguards of civilization, who, far off from the sympathy of their kin and country, stand the brunt of battle with "spiritual wickedness in high places," seldom pour into our ear the language of complaint or distress without exciting a feeling of impatience, or awakening, it may be, inconsiderate wonder at their obtrusiveness. This is not as it should be. If to any man the right hand of fellowship should be promptly extended—if from any, a tale of woe should be listened to with compassion, or a statement of wrongs endured should draw from us words of encouragement—it is the Missionary, who, careless of his own ease, exposes reputation, quiet, and even life itself, in defence of outcast and down-trodden humanity. We honour these Philanthropists from our inmost soul. They are the very pith of this world's valour and virtue. They carry on a severe conflict with evil in places remote from the gaze of admiring, and the shouts of applauding, fellow-countrymen. Such support as we can render them we consider it both a duty and an honour to give—and we entreat our readers to unite with us, in doing what we can, to bring up public opinion in this kingdom to the level of what is required of it by the condition of our outlying dependencies.

Our columns of this day contain a letter of some length from our Guiana correspondent. We ask attention to it. We need not request our readers to go through it—let them but commence it, and we shall willingly leave the rest to their own power of appreciating able treatment of most important topics. His account of "the new tax ordinance," will, we fervently hope, attract notice, and prompt action, in quarters likely to exert a salutary influence at the Colonial Office. The ingenuity displayed by the Guiana officials in the experiments they are making upon the endurance of flesh and blood, is perfectly fiendish—whilst the wanton waste of life produced by "Immigration," so generously patronized by the Whig Government, is a scandal to the age we live in. We were promised large measures of Colonial Reform under Earl Grey's secretaryship. Where are they? New Zealand may have obtained some redress—but Canada, Jamaica, Guiana, have small reason to bless his lordship's administration.

In the early part of July, we directed the attention of our readers to the case of Mr. Alexander Henderson, Baptist missionary at Belize, Honduras, and that of several fellow-sufferers for conscience sake. It will be remembered that the authorities in that settlement, availing themselves of a conscientious objection on the part of Mr. Henderson, and several of his friends, to oath-taking, worried them with frequent fines, and occasional imprisonment, refused them every kind of legal redress—and drew up and passed "an Act for declaring and defining the laws respecting Dissent," which was evidently meant to drive Protestant Nonconformity out of the colony. A letter from Mr. Henderson, inserted in another column, informs us that his applications at the Colonial Office have been apparently successful. We rejoice at it, and we sincerely trust that the hopes held out to him may be ultimately realized. He is now, we learn, about to return to the scene of his self-denying labours. The expenses of his mission hither, borne by himself, and undertaken solely in vindication of the claims of religious liberty, and the loss of property sustained by himself and many of his flock in the heavy fines unrighteously inflicted upon them by authority, are matters which, with instinctive modesty, he forbears to glance at. We have no such scruple. We point out his case as one which invites the indulgence of the greatest luxury a rich man can enjoy—the spontaneous offer of benevolence to a poor but courageous-hearted victim of oppression. There is many a man among our readers, we believe, who knows how to sympathize with a persecuted forlorn-hope—some who participate in the conscientious scruples for which he has suffered no inconsiderable loss, and a few who will deem themselves happy in an opportunity of giving him solid proof of their approbation of his firmness. We need say no more—we could not satisfy our own feelings in saying less.

MINISTERIAL MOVEMENTS.—All the Ministers are expected to assemble in town about the 18th of October, when the Cabinet Councils will be called together which usually meet in November to arrange the measures of the government for the ensuing session. This more early assembling of the members of government has no reference to any premature meeting of Parliament, which will probably be not required to be called together much before the usual time.—*Observer*.

A GENERAL THANKSGIVING for the late bountiful harvest will be ordered by the Queen in Council, at Osborne, on Tuesday next, when the form will be proclaimed and the day fixed, after consultation with the heads of the church. So much has been urged as to the propriety of selecting Sunday for the solemnity, instigated by appropriating a week-day as formerly, that her Majesty will comply with the wishes so expressed. Either the 10th or the 17th of October will most likely be the Sunday decided on.—*Observer*.

We have been informed on unquestionable authority that the appointment of Chief Commissioner of Poor Laws has been declined by the Earl of Chichester.—*Times*.

LORD J. RUSSELL left his residence at Richmond on Saturday for Osborne, Isle of Wight, on a visit to the Queen.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Demerara, August 18th, 1847.

"Once more unto the breach!" I did not, however, intend when I wrote last so soon to return to my correspondence. But there is no way of fixing attention upon our Colonial dependencies except by continually enforcing their claims upon public notice. "Those things are to be held possible," Lord Bacon thought, "which may be done by some person, though not by every one, and which may be done in succession of efforts, though not within the hour-glass of one man's efforts." My last communication found the world of England in the necessary din and strife of electioneering preparations; and when this reaches you, steam and tide permitting, the "Nonconformist electors" will, I trust, be armed *cap-a-pis*, at all points, resolved to act faithfully to their avowed principles.

We in the Colonies look with an avidity which fireside travellers can scarcely conceive of for the arrival of the English mails; the delay of one or two days only spreads a feverish anxiety through the community, and happy is the man who can first announce to his friends the welcome news that the packet is signalled at the lighthouse. Then follows speedily the rush to the post-office, the delivery of letters and papers, and the quietness of epicures devouring their intelligence.

At the present time we anticipate something more than talk from a new House of Commons; there are some honoured names in the list of candidates that, should they find a seat in Parliament, will take up Colonial questions with intelligent vigour and pertinacity. But of British Guiana, I begin with—

THE NEW TAX ORDINANCE.

This most oppressive law has now come into operation; and unless the local legislature of the colony, or the Queen in council suspend some of its provisions, the results will be disastrous to the middle and lower classes. The semi-official *Guiana Times* and the *Congregational Record*, the one representing the mercantile, the other the labouring community, are alike agreed in denouncing this deliberate atrocity. Of its general spirit and provisions you may judge from the following paragraph extracted from a recent number of the *Guiana Times*:—"The new tariff is partial in the extreme. Through every item of it peers forth the desire to ease the expenditure of the estate at the expense of the labourer who tills it. The duty on lumber is equalized; the commonest qualities, those most in use by the lower orders, have now to pay the same rate as the best; the low-priced wine of the Portuguese labourer pays the same duty as the rich Madeira of his more fortunate master. Butter, high before the first of July, is put altogether out of the reach of the poor by additional taxation; and to show the spirit, independence, and wisdom of the Legislature, prohibitory duties are placed against all BRITISH produce, as a retaliation for the proposed free-trade in sugar!" These remarks are just and sensible, and the editor of the *Guiana Times* is doing good service to the colony in thus exposing the details of this ordinance. This is the practical exposition of the views announced in the pamphlet entitled "*Thoughts on British Guiana*," to which I alluded in my last, and for which, as its author was needy, and dealt some heavy blows upon the Anti-slavery Society, our Legislature voted one thousand dollars of the public money! "We are not bound," says the giant of Lilliput—"we are not bound to care for the opinion of the world, and least of all for the world of England, which we have too much reason to know has no durability in it." Happy and fortunate blusterer this: a medical man without practice, and a planter without capital, to raise such a storm in a slop basin, and to get a thousand dollars for the achievement.

But to return: observe the attempted retaliation, and see how small it looks, and all because the people of England righteously (as I think) demand liberty to purchase sugar, as other articles, at the cheapest market.

	dollars.	sterling.
Every 100lbs. of Biscuit, English	0.50	or 2s.
Every 200lbs. of Beef, English	2.75	" 11s. 4d.
Corn Meal, English	0.50	" 2s.
Flour and Wheat, per barrel, English ..	1.75	" 7s. 2d.
Fish, Salmon, do. English ..	2.00	" 8s. 4d.
Pork, pickled, do. English ..	2.75	" 11s. 4d.
Rice, per 100lbs., English	0.50	" 2s.

And so on. I put the word English thus, because it stands thus in the ordinance: before our legislators would say, "On all the following English articles," they have stuck the word English, English, English, all the way through their bit of spite, until one is almost sick at being an Englishman. Nor is this all: the revenue must be raised; there are so many hands to be dipped into the colony chest, and not one of these hands will go away, not even a Wesleyan hand, until it is well filled, that the needful must be raised. The heaviest blow ever dealt upon the labouring population since emancipation, comes down full sweep upon them in this same tax ordinance. I need not say that the raising of ground provisions for sale constitutes one source of income to all the people; every man who has his little freehold goes out to work, while the old mother or the wife looks after the little bit of ground, and cultivates arrow-root, sweet potato, cassada, plantains, &c. Thus the family is supported in part, and the residue is carried to town, and the proceeds spent at the merchant's stores. Thus all are benefited, and money passes freely from hand to hand. But this must be put a stop to, say our legislators; we have got the Coolies and the Portuguese here, and if we can't LASH these "black fellows" back to the estates,

we will TAX them back: what right has a black man to sell provisions? Therefore sections 45 and 46 of this ordinance enact that no one in town, or in the "rural districts," shall sell any "provisions or refreshment" without taking out a license, for which he is to pay *ten dollars*, or £2 ls. 8d. sterling! and the penalty for breach of this section is "double the amount of the license."

My indignation burns at this astounding folly: and my fingers are unable to carry my pen with my tumultuous thoughts. I say it seriously, and without the slightest exaggeration, that the enforcement of this unrighteous law, and it is being enforced already, will be the partial ruin of many families. There are many old people and sickly women who support themselves, aye, and give of their ability to the cause of God besides, by making cakes, or selling ginger beer, or carrying a little provision to town; and to these poor creatures, who once had strength to make sugar, and from whose unjustly exacted sweat and overtasked labour the lordly owner made his dollars, this ordinance will be all but utter ruin. Such an insult to a bounteous Heaven is, I hope, rare even in the annals of colonial misrule: we have been spared famine and drought; seasons unparalleled have visited this country; the whole colony is as a well-watered garden; pictures of almost forgotten beauty present themselves on every estate; the land groans under the munificent productions of this rich alluvial soil; God *has blessed us*; and the earth *has yielded its increase*: and in the midst of all this undeserved bounty and blessedness,

"Only man is vile."

So vile that, with rude and sacrilegious hand, he steps in to pluck the gifts of God from his rejoicing creatures, by forbidding any one to sell these fruits of the earth until he has paid ten dollars into the Colonial chest. And out of this chest our Wesleyan brethren, with coats of pious black, and cravats of most orthodox purity, after having, of course, denounced the iniquity of those that "lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall;" out of this chest, I say, filled with the revenue of robbery, our Wesleyan brethren will hasten to extract their share of dollars. Yea, and having done this in 1846, and being about to do it again in 1847, they will say one to another for 1848, "Take ye the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold: for there is none end of the store and glory out of all the pleasant furniture."

Think not, dear Sir, that I write in unbecoming severity. I write not half strongly enough; and may this hand of mine cease to wield a pen when I have ceased to see that there is iniquity in the building of God's house, and the carrying on of missionary operations by rapine and by robbery.

Our friend and brother, Mr. Kitley, in the *Record*, edited by him, thus speaks of this ordinance:—

"An insult to the labouring poor, and absolutely preposterous, is the *Gazette's* recommendation to them to continue to raise provisions, when the editor knows (or ought to know) that plantains, yams, cassada, and other products of the ground, on many of their little freeholds, are at this moment rotting on the ground as manure, on account of the strange and shameful proceedings towards them, under the provisions of the oppressive Tax Ordinance! To the honour of the people who have been praised or blamed, just as it best suited the mercenary motives of their traducers, that they have well improved the growing season by planting in abundance, (so much so, indeed, that in some instances the cheapness of provisions has rendered their labour in conveying the food to town almost profitless to themselves!) yet when, in ignorance of the New Tax Ordinance, and of the monstrous and unusual interpretations given to the meaning thereof, they brought the product of their surplus labour to town, and sold any portion of it, they were ruthlessly deprived of all they had by the police; and their provisions sold at the police station for next to nothing."

At present the people are quietly allowing their provisions to rot! and they are right, for, after paying for the license, little, if any, profit would remain for their labour. At one meeting of labourers I attended, at a populous village near, the people said, "Never mind, we have enough for our families; but we will carry nothing to town to sell: let them big bucras in town starve." At another meeting, held in my own chapel, the people unanimously declared that they would neither take out licenses nor carry anything to town to sell. And they are right. Where the people, as in this colony, are unrepresented, and have not the right of appeal or petition, this is the only way they can utter their wrongs.

I proceed to notice another vexed question—

IMMIGRATION.

My last informed you of the arrival of several "cargoes" of Coolies: the season is past for them, and for a while no more will come; towards the end of the year they will begin to pour in again. Meanwhile the Portuguese continue to flow in; and last week the steamer "Growler" arrived with 463 Africans from Sierra Leone; and by the same steamer 100 Africans are to return, having completed their five years' term of service. Rather a costly tide this immigration, with its ebb and flow; but that is nothing, the taxpayers can afford it! More serious than the cost is the mortality among the immigrants, and the immoral examples they set before our population; and on these two points crave space to enlarge.

The mortality among the Portuguese and Coolies is absolutely appalling: the unpitied victims to the insatiable cupidity of our legislators lie in thousands in the silent grave. The fact is, though our Government will not admit it, that this climate is altogether unsuited both to the Madeirans and East Indians. For some time past we have had no official returns from the Colonial Hospital. *Emery's Journal* used to compel these returns by its uncompromis-

ing fearlessness, but since it has been given up the grave and the hospital are both alike silent. Doubtless in the Blue Books all these matters are stated, but how few have access to these documents, and those few are Whig officials mostly, who have vested rights in the present corrupt system of colonial government. Some of your readers will perhaps say, these are the statements of partisans, of a few poor missionaries, who have always been humanity-mongers. To silence such an objection I will quote from the public papers of the colony.

"On the west coast the Madeirans are dying off like rotten sheep; as soon as they are unable to work they are left to starve, and to perish with hunger and want. The helpless Coolies, for whom literally no provision is made, in our rural districts die off, as a consequence, in untold numbers. In the six months ending June 30 ultimo, 272 deaths took place in the Colonial Hospital in town, of which 200 were immigrants, who, on an average, lived five months after they landed on the shores of British Guiana!"

How fearful is this simple statement! 200 men and women pushed into eternity by the worshippers of Mammon before they had lived half a year in the promised paradise!

Again, the *Guiana Times*, with praiseworthy fidelity, thus refers to this subject:—

"No wonder there has been such devastating mortality in the rural districts [it is no missionary or political parson that speaks of devastating mortality]; about 400 deaths of Portuguese alone took place in the country in the last six months of last year, and in the Colonial Hospital in that time 154 deaths, Coolies and Portuguese. Up to June 30th of this year 272 deaths took place in the Colonial Hospital, exceeding the number of the preceding six months by 48; and of these about 200 were Portuguese and Coolies. What the return from the rural districts may be we do not know."

Nor does anybody else know, nor can any one know, for life and death are cheap commodities on every estate. Much has lately been said by the Governor here about rural hospitals, for the purpose of throwing dust in the eyes of the Home Government; if, indeed, our present miserable ghost of a government at home care one farthing about the colonies, except as they can find berths in them for hangers-on and hungry dependents. Yet, after all this fuss about rural hospitals, the official documents declare that "only twenty-six out of two hundred and fifty estates, of which two hundred are in sugar, are furnished with hospitals, and only four others intended to be fitted up."

"On an estate of the honourable Peter Rose (Haarlem)," says the *Guiana Times*, "there are reported 'preparations in a state of great forwardness.' And it seems the honourable John Croal, attorney for *Vreed-en-hoop*, intends to comply with the ordinance. This is all these gentlemen are reported to have done. No doubt the ordinance affords a loop-hole for every defaulter. But, 'when no eye seeth thee, God seeth thee.' The blood of the poor victims of neglect cries from the ground."

This is a faithful testimony of the Editor, who has been and still is a loud advocate for further immigration. But as I write, my mind suggests that I may be getting tedious in these details, and I can only plead in apology that this is the only relief to a mind overburdened with every day's report of wrong and outrage, unable to do anything in its alleviation, but thus to sit and write.

To the immoral tendency of Coolie immigration I have frequently alluded; to all the other testimony I must add the following important ones from Jamaica.

The *Falmouth Post* announces that the Coolies in Trelawny "are fast approaching that miserable condition which will render them unable to perform the duties expected from them." Trelawny lies at the North Western end of Jamaica, and singularly enough, the following account is given in the same paper of the Coolies in St. Thomas-in-the-East, the South Eastern extremity of the island.

The Chairman of the Quarter Sessions for that parish, in his address to the grand jury, thus alludes to these victims:—

"The highways and places of public resort were crowded with these wretched creatures, in the last and worst stages of destitution, squalor, filth, disease, and dejection. Clothing they had, for the most part, none, and covering barely sufficient to pay tribute to the decencies of nature, totally inadequate to meet the decencies of society."

"The grand jury, answering the Chairman, say:—

"We, the grand inquest, fully respond to your Honour's remarks regarding the cleanly, pleasant and apparently happy appearance of the Coolies on their first being landed in this parish, and we remember the agreeable and sanguine anticipation so indulged in by all parties; but we are very sorry at being under the disagreeable necessity of bearing testimony to the non-realization of such expectations—feeling perfectly convinced that their location here has proved in every way detrimental."

"From this testimony there is no appeal; and the harrowing description of the Chairman of St. Thomas-in-the-East is little more than the repetition, in choicer phrase, of the accounts from all parts of the country. From Westmoreland, from Trelawny, from St. Mary, from Clarendon, and from Vere, comes the same sad tale. We are told on their arrival that they are 'healthy, well clad, cleanly, smiling, and gay.' In a few short months, and their lot is summed up in the words, 'destitution, squalor, filth, disease, and dejection.'

"Impoverishment to us, and misery, disease, and death to the Coolies, are the fruits of Coolie immigration."

"We have no inclination to linger on the disheartening theme. Even out of evil cometh good; and may we derive from our loss and their sufferings the solitary lesson, that though it is only unwise and thriftless to waste our money, it is inhuman and wicked to make the wretchedness and destruction of our fellow-creatures the concomitant of that waste. We hope, for the interest and character of the country, that the Coolies are the last people who will be brought into it to pauperize, demoralize, and disgrace the island."—*Morning Journal*, July 19, 1847.

Just such is the general character of the Coolies in British Guiana! The clothing of men and women, even in the crowded streets of George Town, is "barely sufficient to pay tribute to the decencies of nature, and totally inadequate to meet the decencies of society."

I know of other immoralities that would startle English philanthropists. Infanticide has no doubt been introduced

into the colony by the Coolies, and is I believe quietly practised by many of them. A short time since some good Samaritans of the hated creole population found three little Coolie children late at night lying in an open shed in George Town, huddled in one mass together to keep each other warm. They were all but starved with hunger and cold; they were perfectly naked; they had been left there by their parents, they knew not how long, who had adopted this plan of getting rid of these incumbrances. They were taken home by these good creatures, one of them has been adopted by a black woman, a member of Mr. Wallbridge's church, and the other Sabbath he baptised this little outcast. The others are also provided for by the same 'worthless black people.' A brother missionary shortly since visited an estate; in the hospital lying about were Portuguese and Coolies sick and dying; in one place a Coolie woman had just expired, leaving a husband and five children all down with fever: the husband, finding the wife was dead, took up the youngest child, and was about to kill it by throwing it out of the window, but was restrained by those present: since then he has died, and the other Coolies on the estate forbid the missionary to adopt any one of the orphan children, and forbid the children to go near the missionary! The Portuguese are much the same debased, dirty, ignorant, and bigoted race. When they die they are tumbled into the grave by one or two black people, without even the formalities of a service. One of my members, living on an estate close by belonging to a gentleman of the very strictest sect of evangelical churchmen, and resident in the colony, thus described the funeral of one, and it is a specimen of all:—"When Portuguese die, black people dig the grave, black people make the coffin, and when all ready, black people put the body in the hole. The Portuguese never come out of the house to see their matty buried: him is bury like hog." A missionary, living in another part of the colony, told me the other day that he had occasion to visit an estate to see some of his sick flock: he passed by a house where a Portuguese child had just died; two black men were digging the grave at a corner of the house, and on his return, after seeing one or two people, he was shocked and horrified to see the two black persons putting the coffin in the ground, without a single other person present, and the parents of the child sitting down in the house chatting, actually too indifferent to witness the body of their daughter committed to the grave. Cases of murder and stabbing are becoming fearfully prevalent. Just within a mile or two of my own house, the following have recently occurred. Two Portuguese waylaid a countryman, and one of them in the darkness of night plunged his stiletto into the intended victim's heart, and then cast the body into the trench, and the next morning I saw the corpse lying on the public road within a few yards of the house. The law of course has visited these wretched men, but I mention it as a specimen of the new crimes introduced into the colony by immigration. On the next estate to this, two Portuguese stabbed, not fatally, two black men in the night in consequence of some illicit amour discovered by these black people, for which the Portuguese are now in jail. On another estate close by, at a dance given by some black people and Portuguese, one of the Portuguese had a quarrel with one of the dancers, and at once plunged his knife into the man's side; happily it was the right side, and the man after suffering for a while received twenty dollars from the Portuguese in compensation, instead of going to law. The other Sunday as one of my congregation was returning home from chapel on his horse, some Portuguese met him; they were all drunk, and were dancing to the guitar; they stopped the black man, beat him, took his horse from him, rode it, kept it a day, and then sent it home, with a present of twelve dollars to the man, which he was stupid enough to accept, instead of seeking redress, as I advised him, at a legal tribunal. The other evening I was taking my wife and little children out for a drive, and in returning home we were overtaken by two Portuguese, a man and boy, driving a cart most furiously, and urging the miserable mule to go faster still: with difficulty they passed us without a collision, where the results might have been frightful, for our roads are very narrow, and a deep trench is on each side. I presently overtook them at a Portuguese grog shop, and pulled up to see if I could find their number; I found them within, man and boy drinking raw rum, and received nothing but abuse, and all the satisfaction I obtained was, to tell them that the Portuguese were a curse to the country.

In the face of all such facts, and they might be multiplied without end, the *Royal Gazette* has the audacity to assure its home readers, "so far from immigration having a demoralizing influence, we believe it will have a very moral one;" and on the faith of such undiluted falsehoods as these, the *Daily News*, and such like pretended organs of truth, has the assurance to tell its readers continually, "our intelligence from the colonies is very satisfactory;" "everything was quite quiet at our last dates," &c., &c. Pshaw! The same *Gazette* thus adds, with all but a diabolical insult to the labouring classes, "we believe the immigrants will be shamed out of the meaner vices to which they may be subject, and the creoles will be improved by the opportunities afforded them of exercising their naturally benevolent feelings!"

But I must close for the present. There is some talk of a reform in our constitution; it is likely, however, to end in smoke. Reform is needed, but if the people improve in the lessons they are learning of passive resistance, it may come too late. I look with pleasure on the state of things growing worse and worse each day; when we get to the bottom of our misery there will be a comfort in knowing that any change must be for the better; and all things here

must be much worse before people will open their eyes to see the necessity of reform.

Two honourable gentlemen, the Hon. John Croal and Dr. Blair, the colonial surgeon-general, have lately fought a duel; after exchanging each two shots they retired from the field unhurt. The papers state that the Hon. John Croal said, "I can't think how I missed him, for I thought I aimed well!" The duel rose out of an immigration story.

I very much fear my letter is too long for the patience of yourself or readers; pardon this, as I write *currente calamo*, and have no time to write or take copies.

W. G. B.

COSTLY CHEAPNESS.

(From the *Spectator*.)

Essays on the false cheapness of the day are written in the characters of death. We may overlook its hollowness when its consequences only come upon us in the shape of waste or bankruptcy; but when against the penny saved is set off a life lost by an appalling mode of execution, we begin to doubt the infallible economy of so-called cheapness.

The prevalent dogma has led us into grievous mistakes. The Government, for instance, benignly interfered in railway affairs for the benefit of the working classes, and compelled railways to be cheap; whence a fertile and continuous crop of accidents. The mode in which that result accrued has been made out before now. The interference of Government had the immediate effect of enforcing upon railways a lower scale of fares generally than the rates which would naturally have been fixed by the market according to mere facility of production: the consequence was, that by that kind of forcing process, the passenger traffic on railways grew with unnatural rapidity and outran the physical means of providing for it. Railways, engines, and servants, have been overworked. The most frequented lines became insufficient for the pressure of traffic upon them. It is easy to say, "Make more, then;" but we know that, as it is, the monied public has been spending money too fast for its own solvency, in the making of railways. On some lines engines could not be made fast enough—extra prices could not extort what there were not workmen enough to make in the most approved establishments. The next consequence is, that ingenuity is taxed to make the excessive traffic fit into time and space so as to produce the least amount of disaster: and ingenuity is not infallible. Crowded traffic and defective engines cause unpunctuality; unpunctuality causes delays, overdriving to make up for delays, and "collision"—"word of fear!" In this railway matter, then, Government sowed cheapness and reaped accident.

Again, in the cheap steam-boat affairs, it is clear that excessive cheapness carries with it the condition of excessive unsafety. Excessive lowness of fare implies lowness of expenditure; and that implies a low scale of service. Accordingly, the additional evidence in the case of the Cricket places beyond a doubt the fact that the servants entrusted with the management of the engine and the lives of the passengers were men of the lowest cultivation in point of intellect and conscience. The most reckless servants were actually preferred: those who made a practice of tying down the safety-valve—one of them positively knew no better than to suppose that that was the proper way of working an engine!—were retained and shielded from reproach; while those who did know better, and remonstrated, were discountenanced and dismissed. The superior officers of the company deliberately adopted the ignorant, stupid recklessness of their worst "engineers." It was an element in the "go-ahead" style of business which made the small returns pay; it was an ingredient in the boasted "cheapness."

Yet after all, death itself is scarcely so terrible as ridicule, especially when the ridicule is self-incurred and self-reflecting. The pending investigations on the linen-draperies are as pregnant with instruction as the disasters on rail and river. The "economical" housewife piques herself on beating down the tradesman's prices, chaffering for every odd halfpenny under threat of transferring her custom. The tradesman yields the halfpenny, but pays himself by short measure. Cheapness, however, is still in demand, and the tradesman looks out for the wholesale dealer who will give him goods at the "lowest figure." The wholesale dealer and the manufacturer resort to the short-measure compensation; which is at length carried so far as to outrun the retail-dealer's command of face at the counter or calculation of profits on the sale. A hundred yards of cotton, "warranted," turns out to measure but 92, or 86, or 75; a "nine-yards length" of tape may prove to be less than six yards. The tape is a wonder of cheapness to the purchaser—if it were nine yards; but is it so cheap, being only six? The fraud is dissipated with an explosion more shocking to our feelings than that of a disrupted boiler: we thought ourselves so clever, and find ourselves so silly—accomplices in conspiracy where all are dupes!

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PROMOTING THE REAL REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT.—A committee has been formed at Edinburgh, for advancing the principles and promoting the objects of the National Alliance. *Scottish Press.*—A meeting of persons friendly to the principles of the newly-formed National Alliance for promoting the real representation of the people in Parliament was held at the Victoria Tavern, Canterbury, on Wednesday, the 15th inst., for the purpose of effecting this desirable object in Canterbury, and several resolutions were passed, pledging the meeting to support its views. *Kent Herald.*

EARLY CLOSING.—The drapers and grocers of Pontefract have, with a view to give their assistants, apprentices, &c., an opportunity of attending classes of the Mutual Improvement Society, agreed to close their shops at seven in winter and eight in summer; the former season to commence on the 1st of October, and the latter on the 1st of April. *Leeds Times.*

THE CONGRESS ON PENAL DISCIPLINE.

(From the *Patriot*.)

The Free-trade Congress at Brussels, or *Congrès des Economistes*, has been followed by a *Congrès pénitentiaire*, the object of which is, to promote the melioration of secondary punishments, or "Penal Reform." This subject has long engaged the consideration both of statesmen and philanthropists, in Europe and in America, but hitherto with so little success, that the true object of penal discipline is still the matter of conflicting theories, while the *ne plus ultra* of reformatory treatment, the separate system, is now, in the view of those best qualified to speak of its working, regarded as indefensible. At this very congress, as the *Chronicle* remarks, "the discordant opinions expressed upon many of the moot points of penal discipline, are a salutary warning of the imperfect state and indigested condition of what ought to be as certain a branch of human knowledge as any other department of social economy."

The Congress met on the 20th inst., in the Gothic Hall of the Hotel de Ville. M. Van Meenen, President of the Court of Cassation, was chosen President, and the following gentlemen were appointed Vice-Presidents:—Lieutenant-Colonel Jebb, Inspector of Prisons, for England; M. Welcker, Member of the Baden Chamber of Deputies, for Germany; M. Gustave de Beaumont, for France; and M. Den Tex, for the Netherlands. From a statement made by M. Ducpetiaux, Inspector-General of Prisons in Belgium, and Honorary Secretary of the Congress, it appeared that the foreign members present were distributed in the following proportions:—French, 31; English, 3; German, 10; Swiss, 2; Swedish, 4; Italian, 3; Portuguese, 1; Spanish, 1; Russian, 1; Dutch, 12. The number of Belgian members present was 104.

It appears that this Penitentiary Congress, being a continuation of one held last year at Frankfurt, stood already committed upon one main point—namely, as to an approval of the separate system applied for indefinite periods; so that when Mr. Charles Pearson, M.P. for Lambeth, intimated his dissent from the Frankfurt resolutions, citing from a report by Colonel Jebb, on the Pentonville system, an admission that its physical effects, in lengthened periods of confinement, are to be regarded with alarm, it was observed by M. Ducpetiaux, the Secretary, that the Congress could not enter on the discussion of a principle already adopted. The discussion which ensued turned on the question, "Whether the application of the separate system in the case of juvenile criminals ought to be entire and severe, or modified and with restrictions?" To find this even made a question is sufficiently startling. Some of the speakers advocated the substitution of agricultural colonies, such as those of Clairvaux and Pontenraux, for "the cellular penal system," under which M. Chassinat, a physician of Paris, said a youth with a weakly constitution could not be expected to live more than two years! It was objected, on the other hand, by a M. Mulier (who does not, however, seem to be of a very womanly temperament), that "the agricultural colonies are not sufficiently penal: to be placed in them was a reward rather than a punishment." Mr. Charles Pearson said he would not discuss the question in its medical bearing, but as one of law and policy:—

If the question before them passed, one of the greatest glories of the French penal code would be destroyed. By the 66th and subsequent article children of tender age are made not criminally responsible for the acts they may commit, unless they exhibit a precocious discernment. But the cellular system, by being applied to children, made them criminals, while legally they were not so. They were bound to take a large view of the subject; and the proposition was not founded in justice. The stigma that an imprisonment would fix on a child would be fatal to it throughout its life. He denied what had been stated, that Mrs. Fry, in the latter part of her life, had approved the cellular system; he had a letter, dictated by that lady in her last moments, in which she condemned it. He gave notice that, at the next meeting of the Congress, at Paris, he should move a series of resolutions on the subject.

M. Mallet declared, from personal knowledge, that Mrs. Fry was not opposed to the separate system under certain modifications. Mr. Pearson's views were sustained by M. Peruzzi, of Florence, both as to the application of the cellular system to children, and as to the construction of Articles 66 and 67 of the French Penal Code. It is not quite clear in what shape the proposition was ultimately affirmed: certainly the discussion was anything but satisfactory. The remaining propositions discussed on this and the second day, seem to have related to mere matters of detail, connected with the construction and management of prisons.

On the third day (the 22nd), the Members of the Congress varied their proceedings with a visit of inspection to the prison of Vilvorde, about two leagues from Brussels, a special train having been provided for the purpose of conveying them. They subsequently held a sitting from half-past one to four, which was still occupied, for the most part, with the consideration of plans of construction and arrangement. The first part of the fourth and final sitting was frittered away in the same manner, upon mechanical details. It was only towards the close of the sitting that the Congress proceeded to take up the topics of moral treatment and religious instruction, the rules of prison discipline, and the character of the officers. Under the last head the question came up, how far the religious corporations or brotherhoods should be employed for this purpose;—a point of great importance in Roman Catholic countries, where the members of the different orders devote themselves in considerable numbers to this service. Should these officers have a preparatory training? was another question; also, whether Societies, Committees of Charity and of Patronage, should have any control over the discipline of the prisons. From what discussion was excited, we are told, it was evident that religious feeling in this, as in other matters, has raised many differences. There is an apprehension of giving too much control into the hands of the clergy and their dependents, lest the prisons should become centres of proselytism. On the other hand, some imagine, that even the quasi sacred character of the *frères* of the religious orders (who are not priests) is injured by their doing the duty of warders and gaolers. A sentiment expressed by one of the speakers, that the Church should never act as the secular arm of justice, was greatly applauded. Before the close of the proceedings, Mr. Charles Pearson, M.P., placed on the table a series of resolutions, which he intends to move next year at the meeting of the Congress in Paris.

We cannot, we own, resist the impression, that a very considerable degree of quackery and "crochetism" was blended with these proceedings. Surely, the time was wretchedly mis-spent in discussing the methods of lighting, warming, and ventilating prisons, and in settling whether it is better that the air should enter at the top of the prison, and go out at the bottom, as at Pentonville, or enter at the bottom, and go out at the top, as at Clerkenwell. These sanitary refinements strike us as amazingly fantastical. Surely there is some medium between the horrors and tremendous abuses of the old prison system, and the extraordinary pains now taken to make prisons as comfortable as possible. Apart from the separate system, indeed, it seems to be felt that imprisonment would be almost deprived of its penal character to a large proportion of the population; but this system, if it can be shown to be of dreadful efficacy

in subduing, but of no virtue in reforming a culprit, cannot be defended as a part of the ordinary gaol discipline. Every care and precaution ought certainly to be taken to prevent an offender from becoming confirmed in all his worst habits and principles by imprisonment, and from leaving gaol a worse character than he entered it; but the notion of converting prisons into schools and making the infliction of a penal sentence serve as a means of education, is, we cannot but think, chimerical. Far wiser would it be to consider what might be done to prevent individuals from getting into prison, by diminishing the motives to crime, and to enable culprits to work their way out, by giving them the benefit of their labour. How much cheaper would it be to abolish the Game-laws than to build penitentiaries for poachers and snarers of hares! How much better, in cases of juvenile delinquency, to alter the laws, than to confound under a common sentence the hardened criminal and the youthful and scarcely responsible petty offender! And why should crime be the only passport to agricultural colonies, and to the board, lodging, and moral training of penitentiaries? Why should prisons be the only accessible asylums for the destitute?

HER MAJESTY AND THE CORNISH WOMEN.—SINGULAR INCIDENT.—The following incident connected with the Royal departure may be read with interest:—It seems that there is a boat's crew of Cornish women, who make a livelihood by going to various regattas, and who were to have contended in some of the races at the Fleetwood regatta last week; but the vessel on board of which they embarked themselves and their rowing-gig for Liverpool was driven by stress of weather, during the storm of Wednesday last, to put into Dublin; and in consequence of this untoward passage, the Cornish women did not reach Fleetwood till Saturday last, two days after the close of the regatta. They had their boat upon the Wyre water on Saturday, and attracted some attention from the novelty of a boat's crew of those usually denominated "the weaker sex," yet challenging "the lords of the creation" to a contest which especially demands considerable physical strength and muscular exertion. These Cornish women were pulling about the river and channel on Monday evening, and, on the arrival of the royal yacht, saluted it in the usual way by presenting their oars; but in all probability they were not noticed by any of the royal party, who were otherwise engaged at the time. However, from seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, these women were in the harbour, rowing about near the royal yacht, or what is technically termed, "rowing guard;" and on her Majesty's landing, they pulled stoutly away for the large piece of water, over which the pile-bridge is constructed on which the Preston and Wyre Railway is carried to Fleetwood. Here, as the royal train passed along the pile-bridge, these nautical Amazons saluted the royal party with upraised oars, and this time they attracted the attention of her Majesty and Prince Albert, who, struck by the singular appearance of the white dresses and white caps of these waterwomen, smiled, and graciously acknowledged their salute, and also directed the attention of the children to this singular exhibition. The poor women were greatly gratified at having been honoured by the nods and smiles of their sovereign—that sovereign being of their own sex, and "an ocean queen."

MR. CHARLES BULLER was entertained at a public dinner, on Wednesday, by the electors of Liskeard, to celebrate his re-election. The Mayor presided; and among the principal guests were, Mr. Robartes, M.P., Mr. Edmund Turner, M.P., Sir William Trelawney, and several gentlemen of influence. Mr. Buller twice returned thanks—once for "her Majesty's Ministers," and once for himself. In speaking for Ministers, he said—

They have succeeded to office under such circumstances as deprived them of the power, but at the same time relieved them of the responsibility, of proposing that course under which they deemed the country should be governed: they succeeded to power not by their own strength, but by the weakness and disruption of party; they succeeded to power because no one else would venture to undertake to uphold the government of the country. The country did them ample justice; the country gave them credit for their good intentions, and supported them during the period of their weakness. It has now relieved them from that weakness, and placed on them the full responsibility of the government of this country. It is not for me, humble member as I am of that Government, to attempt to indicate to you what will be the course adopted by the Government in the coming session: in the policy it will pursue, I am no more than you initiated in their secrets. I know no more than the humblest of my auditors what measures the Government are prepared to bring before the Parliament in the ensuing session. I, like you, must look to the character and past conduct of these men; and, judging from their character and from their past conduct, I am induced to give them my support, and humbly to co-operate with them. I am induced to do so, because I think from our experience of the past we may judge that they will not be loath to use the power they have now got for the benefit of the country, and because I feel you may repose in them the same confidence I unhesitatingly do—the confidence which I ask you to repose in them—the confidence you show you have reposed in them by the manner in which you have drunk the toast proposed by the Mayor, and which rests entirely on the hope you form of their policy, grounded on your recollection of the past. I feel confident that you will not be disappointed in these hopes. I feel confident that when, a few years hence, I may on some occasion of a similar nature have to respond to this toast, I hope I still may have to respond for the same Liberal Government, and be then proud to appeal to their success in having passed a long list of Liberal measures, which I believe it is their intention to propose and their present occupation to prepare.

Mr. Buller's second speech amplified the same text—his confidence in Ministers.

GAME-HUNTING MISSIONARIES.—The county of Buckingham can this year boast of having twenty-nine reverend and learned clergymen to wage war against the vermin which molest the farmer's crops. *Bucks Advertiser.*

OATHS.—A petition on the subject of punishments for refusal to take oaths, has been prepared for presentation to Parliament, and lies for signature at various places in Edinburgh and Leith. The alteration of the law prayed for is such a modification of the form of the oath as is at present authorized by the laws of the United States. *Scotman.*

FURTHER COMMERCIAL FAILURES.

The *Times* of Monday announced another serious failure, the apprehension of which has for the past few weeks been hanging over the money-market. The old-established East India-house of Cockerell and Co. has suspended payment. Their liabilities are stated at £600,000, of which £500,000 consists of acceptances. The stoppage is to be attributed to the simultaneous pressure of money in this country and in India, aggravated by the discredit which in times of difficulty is always thrown upon houses which, like that of Cockerell and Co., instead of drawing upon a separate and independent firm, carry on their correspondence with a duplicate establishment. It is said by those who have investigated the accounts, and whose opinion is in every respect entitled to weight, that there is in the present instance not only reason to hope for a surplus, but also for a very considerable one. Sir George Larpent, the recent candidate for the city, was one of the most active members of the firm.

The old-established house of Cockburn Brothers, in the Portuguese wine-trade, has been compelled to stop payment. The branch of the house at Oporto drew upon Reid, Irving, and Co. in London; and the connexion accounts for the downfall of the firm. The house has been long at the head of the wine-trade in Scotland.—*Standard*.

The examination into the affairs of Messrs. W. and J. Woodley, who failed on the 27th of August, is not quite so satisfactory, though by no means without hope. The liabilities are £99,507 3s. 6d., while the assets are £90,845 7s.; leaving a deficit of nearly £9,000. But it may be added, that the wheat which the firm held, and which had been estimated at 45s. is now worth 48s. to 50s., and the flour at 23s. which is now worth 27s. to 28s. Under these circumstances, there is every prospect that the expectations of the creditors to escape without loss will very nearly be borne out.

It is understood that a first dividend of 1s. in the pound has been declared by the inspectors of the estate of Harman and Co. The Russian Government, on their debt of £414,000, will thus receive rather more than £20,000. Considerable assets still remain for distribution, which may ultimately swell the gross dividend to between 3s. and 4s. in the pound.

Two failures were announced on Monday, but they are not of an important character, the parties being Messrs. Cockburn and Co., army agents (a firm little known in the city), and Messrs. M. L. Bensusan and Co., Mogador and Barbary merchants.

STOPPAGE OF RAILWAY SPECULATION.

A deputation from the Liverpool Stock Exchange, sent to counsel the railway companies against pressing calls for capital, arrived in town on Wednesday, and had conferences with the directors of several companies. We state general results.

Mr. Glyn repeated his written declaration, that the North-western Company would not enter into any new contracts connected with bills for lines that were granted last session, excepting under very special circumstances, should any such arise.

Mr. Hudson, for the Midland, Eastern Counties, and other railways, concurred.

Other directors intimated, that the several calls now made are necessary for the payment of debentures and other peremptory demands.

Mr. Charles Russell, for the Great Western Railway, doubted the power of any company to pledge itself to the course recommended; but said that the Great Western Company had been doing all it could to limit its calls. It would continue to act on that general principle; but in respect of particular lines it could not alter past contracts.

Mr. Chaplin, for the London and South-western, assured the deputation that new works should be suspended as much as possible.

Mr. Ricardo, of the North Staffordshire, said, that whatever the chairmen of other companies, from patriotic promptings or considerate motives, might have told them, he believed that every company would act for its own, irrespective of the general interest altogether. This, he believed, was the only way in which these matters could right themselves. The only assurance that he could give them was, that it was not the intention of the North Staffordshire to make any call at least during this year; but if it were to the interest of the company to make a call, and he considered that it was to the interest of his shareholders to raise the money, he should not hesitate to do so, irrespective of every other consideration. He should be governed entirely by what he considered to be his duty to his own proprietors; and he believed that every other company, whatever they might say, would be governed by the same principle.

Mr. Macgregor, for the South-Eastern and Dover, said that the company would do all in its power to curtail expenditure and defer calls.

Mr. Grenfell, for the Brighton and South Coast, expressed the willingness of his company to concur in any measure that might be agreed to by the general railway constituency.

The views of other railway companies are stated from report and less authoritatively. The Great Northern seem to think that every contract between the companies and the public must be fulfilled, like any other commercial transaction. The Shrewsbury and Birmingham, and the Stour Valley, plead that they must go on, under pain of paying compensation for breach of contracts. Some think that a board of mercantile men ought to be appointed to arrange the matter.

The Glasgow Stock Exchange have passed resolutions approving of the course adopted by the Liverpool Stock Exchange for checking the undue absorption of capital in the construction of railways.

The amount of calls due on English lines and payable this month is £2,536,624; on Scotch lines the amount payable is £90,000; and on Irish lines £99,750; making a total of calls due this month of £2,726,374. The total amount called up this year by English, Scotch, and Irish companies, is, including the present month, £27,984,023. This is exclusive of £6,238,000 which has been called up by foreign lines.—*Irish Railway Gazette*.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE AT BRECON.

The annual meeting of the subscribers to the normal school at Brecon was held at that institution on Thursday last; W. W. Phillips, Esq., vice-chairman of the committee, was called to the chair. The Rev. H. Griffiths, agency-secretary, gave a general statement of the proceedings of the committee during the past year, from which it appeared that the Welsh churches had hitherto done very little. The total receipts were about £600, with a debt now existing of about £60. The Rev. J. J. Avery reported the proceedings of the committee on the previous evening, upon which it was unanimously agreed that the normal school should be maintained beyond the expiration of the experimental term of three years first proposed, and should be rendered permanent. Resolutions were passed to the effect that a deputation from the meeting be delegated to visit the different parts of South Wales, in order to meet the representatives of, if possible, every church and congregation, and to prevail with them to contribute not less than 5s. from each church per annum in aid of the school; and that, in order to promote the objects of the Welsh Educational Committee, a paid agent be engaged, who will be instructed to solicit subscriptions in behalf of the normal school, to assist and advise local committees, to inspect and report on the state of the schools in operation, and otherwise promote the objects of the committee.—*Daily News*.

(From our Correspondent.)

The Nonconformists of Wales have taken a noble step in the right direction. At the meeting of the "friends and subscribers" of the Normal School held at Brecon, on Thursday last, they have affirmed that they are not disposed to put on the golden chains of Government. They have proclaimed that they understood the principles of civil and religious liberty better than to follow the faithless course of the British and Foreign School Society. If that Society, under the guidance of aristocrats, could not trust the Voluntary principle, the Dissenters of poor Wales have committed themselves in simple faith to the principles which have already achieved for religion such glorious victories in their fatherland. Verily, they will have their reward. Doubtless, trials and difficulties will befall them, yet their ultimate triumph is certain.

The meeting was not very numerously attended. We do not know how this mishap occurred. We are bound to presume that the Committee strained every nerve to obtain a full meeting, especially as the agency secretary stated that the general meeting was not called in June, on account of the many religious meetings held in Wales in that month, and for fear lest the election should fall on the very day. Notwithstanding this kindness, the assemblage was not very numerous, though it contained a goodly number of decided Nonconformists. Though not fully acquainted with the secrets of the committee-room, we believe that a considerable number, if not a majority, of the agency committee were in favour of applying for the grant. The Chairman of Committee, John Lloyd, Esq., Dines, a magistrate for the county of Brecon, is a churchman; and another estimable churchman, Dr. Lucas, is a member of the committee. Without entertaining the slightest disrespect towards either of these highly respected gentlemen, we are bound to say that it surpasses our comprehension how the working of a Dissenting organization has been so far committed to the hands of individuals who cannot be expected to have any sympathy with our distinctive principles. We cannot pretend to say how matters passed at the committee the night before, as our only brother of the broad sheet who applied was denied admission. Two young ministers, likewise, who presented themselves, were somewhat unceremoniously and characteristically ordered to look out for fresh quarters. On the day of the conference, the benches were charged with the Shuttleworth manifestoes of the "School in its relation to the State," and "Minutes of the Committee of Council of August and February," "Supplementary Minute of July 10, 1847," "Supplementary Official Letters," "Explanations to Inspectors of Schools," &c., &c. These, however, produced no formidable impression on the opponents of the grant. The chair was taken by W. W. Phillips, Esq., Pontypool, who won golden opinions for his admirable conduct. The first resolution was passed without a division, after a conversation of considerable length, in the course of which the word "exclusively" was inserted before "Voluntary Education." It stands as follows:—

That the thanks of the meeting are felt to be due to the Wesleyan Committee of Education and the Congregational Board of Education for their respective engagements to contribute to the support of this institution for three years—that subscriptions be immediately sought from the Welsh churches to aid these donations in the support of the school; and that means be adopted in the meantime to obtain the necessary funds to secure a proper building for the school, which shall be vested in trustees, selected from all denominations, for the joint use of such denominations for ever, for the purposes of exclusively Voluntary education of teachers.

The second resolution, which proposed that deputations should be sent to solicit subscriptions from the churches, was lost on a division, and the following amendment carried by an overwhelming majority:—

That this meeting is of opinion that, in order to promote the objects of the Welsh Educational Committee, a paid agent be engaged, who will be instructed to solicit subscriptions on behalf of the Normal School, to assist and advise local committees, to inspect and report on the state of the schools in operation, and otherwise promote the objects of the committee.

Just as this resolution was put to the vote, T. P. Price, Esq., a Wesleyan, attacked the first resolution, and exhibited considerable regret that the "fine opportunity" of appealing to Government was thus lost. He threatened to withdraw from the committee and sundry other terrors, which, happily, did not frighten the audience out of its propriety. He was followed in a very candid speech by John Lloyd, Esq., who took the same view of the question. Mr. Rees, of Llanelli, replied, and at length the discussion was amicably closed. The next meeting will be held at Llan-doverly. No public meeting was held as announced.

THE EXPLOSION ON BOARD THE "CRICKET" STEAMER.

The adjourned inquest on the persons killed by the Cricket explosion was resumed on Wednesday. Mr. Portwine, a writer on engineering, was examined, but at no great length.

Mr. Thomas Lloyd, chief engineer and inspector of machinery in the Royal Navy, stated the results of the inquiries which he had been directed to make by the Government. He described the form and construction of the Cricket's boilers and valves. He objected to the practice of allowing the valves of high-pressure engines to be in the power of the engineer; and he pronounced the construction of the boiler to be dangerous for the purpose of high-pressure. There was a flat plate in front of it, imperfectly stayed, on which all the pressure of the steam would impinge. He did not think a pressure of 66 pounds would burst the boiler, until it was more worn. Supposing there was a pressure of 60 pounds and the valves closed, in five minutes the pressure would increase to 90 pounds, in ten minutes to 130 or 140, and in a quarter of an hour to 180. If the two lever-valves were tied, and the spring valves free, still a dangerous pressure might arise. The iron used in the Cricket was of a bad quality—laminated. The workmanship of the boiler was not such as it ought to have been. He had tested the other boiler by a water pressure, and it had leaked so much at 136 pounds pressure that the experiment could not be carried further. His opinion was, that there must have been a pressure of 136 pounds to cause the explosion; there could be no doubt that an improper degree of pressure caused the disaster. There are very few engineers who understand their business thoroughly.

Thomas Clark, the engineer, was allowed to give evidence. The value of it is easily tested. He said the valves "were never tied down while I was in the boat;" and yet, in cross-examination, he admitted that he had "generally" directed Knight to tie the strings when the boat started. He pretended that the ropes were merely to shake the valves to set them free; then he fenced about, saying that the ropes were "not so taut but the valves could lift." "Either Edwards or Buttriss might have tied the valves out of spite to me; and I believe they did so." He thought that the explosion had been caused by the "listing" of the vessel at the pier, whereby one of the valves had been prevented from acting. The inquiry was again adjourned.

The proceedings were brought to a close on Friday. The principal witness examined was Henry Robert Heasman, who was engineer to the Cricket at the time of the explosion. He denied that the valves had been tied down. He had come on deck just before the accident; and he admitted that the steam was escaping when he left the engine-room; though he took no notice of it on deck. Several other witnesses were examined, but no new fact was elicited. The Coroner having summed up, the jury retired at eight o'clock; and, after an absence of more than two hours, returned the following verdict:—

We find that Thomas Shed, John Littleton, John Blunt, George Shute, and John Buckley, came to their deaths through the bursting of the boiler of the Cricket steamboat, on the 27th of August, 1847. We find a verdict of manslaughter against Henry Robert Heasman. We consider Thomas Clark highly culpable, and unfit to hold a situation of engineer. We likewise consider Mr. Smith's conduct shamefully neglectful in not properly investigating the complaint made against Clark.

The Coroner immediately issued his warrant for the apprehension of Heasman.

The day's proceedings occupied more than twelve hours; the inquiry itself having lasted for seven days.

The *Times*, in a powerful article, after recapitulating the leading facts brought out in evidence, goes on to remark:—"It has never been our habit to permit the sacrifice of a subordinate, always so promptly proffered by proprietors and directors on occasions like these. And even now, notwithstanding the unexampled recklessness of the officials, we see no reason for charging on them the chief culpability. The engineers did at all events share the dangers they created. If Clark had but boldly asserted that he believed a safety valve might be lashed down without any hazard, and in proof of the sincerity of his conviction had instanced his own perpetual presence within a yard of the boiler, it would be hard to discredit him. But for the proprietors there is no such excuse. Clark might say that if they allowed the practices which he considered innocent, he could not be to blame. They are the really responsible parties. They are the only parties whom no possible construction of the evidence can acquit. Those who choose to set the testimony of Pater and Ball above all the rest may persuade themselves that the valves were never tied down at all, and the engine room never neglected. But no single witness was called to prove that any proprietor took the trouble to inform himself whether such was the case or not, whether 500 lives were put in daily jeopardy or protected by ordinary precautions. If the boat was unsafe, it was their crime; if safe, it was not their merit. They, or their immediate agents, had repeated notice of what was going on. They might not know how far it was true, but they knew that stokers left the service, that engineers complained, that firemen were too much alarmed to stay, that the state of the Cricket was matter of conversation all up and down the river, at every Sunday tea-garden, and at every engineer's house of call. Yet, against these accumulated memorials and reports they set the simple fact that Clark had been well recommended to them, and contented themselves with concluding that such allegations never could be true. They asked nothing, examined nothing, ascertained nothing. They took a barrow load of halfpence from each pier every night, and, as long as they gave only a certain weight of Welsh coal in exchange, they cared even less for the public than the public seem to have cared for themselves."

"Long as we have looked for some outrageous catastrophe on the river, we hardly expected it in such guise as this. Our readers cannot have forgotten an accident arising from very similar causes which occurred at Greenock a few years ago, but, since the scandal excited by that atrocious and memorable exposure of human life, we have never had such an example as this, which might create a feeling of astonishment and dismay if

told even on the waters of the Mississippi. At least, let us now get good out of the evil, and take some measures for securing life on one great highway of our metropolis as well as on the other. The river traffic is of infinite service. It relieves our choked and overcrowded streets; it supplies facilities of transport to people whose means can reach no other, and it brings the extremities of a mighty city into easy and pleasant communication. The very poverty and helplessness of the crowd which flock to its banks demand a treble expenditure of legislative supervision and care. Let us hope after so terrible a warning that it may no longer be withheld."

THE LAST FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

(From the Examiner.)

How many lives are to be sacrificed before the adoption of Count d'Orsay's suggestion to station a guard at the end of trains to give warning of any accident to the engine-driver by signals easily contrivable? Had this precaution, upon the necessity of which we have so often insisted, been taken on the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway, Mr. Gillard and Mr. Weston would have been saved from a horrible death. The account of the third passenger, Mr. Moon, in the same carriage with the deceased, clearly shows that if there had been any way of communicating with the driver, to apprise him that the carriage was off the rail, the mischief would have been prevented. A contemporary has given Mr. Moon's very interesting account:—

Immediately after passing the Luddenden Foot station, the oscillation and uneasy motion of the carriage convinced us that we were off the line. The rapid motion, the noise of the wind, and pattering of the rain, added to the fact that ours was the last carriage, convinced us also that we were too removed from the guard to enable us to draw attention to our position, and we therefore sat still, waiting tremulously the result. After the lapse of about three minutes, during which time the carriage was tossing to and fro in a frightful manner, and dragged along at a rate of full thirty miles an hour, we found we were entering the Sowerby Bridge tunnel, which is about a quarter of a mile in length, and which terminates just before reaching the station. In the tunnel, lights appeared to be dancing about, and I fancied I could perceive the faces of men, whom I took to be porters holding up lights, and our hopes were that they had seen the predicament our carriage was in. The train, however, proceeded, and on approaching the Sowerby Bridge station, the deceased, Mr. Gillard, remarked that he thought the carriage had righted itself upon the rails again; they became conscious that the oscillation was considerably less. I sought this opportunity to seize the straps which passed along the roof of the coupe, and, raising my feet out of the window, I thought it the most secure way to escape danger. I advised Mr. Weston and Mr. Gillard to do the same, but whether they did so or not I cannot say, as immediately after a terrible shock entirely rendered me insensible to what was passing around me. I remembered nothing further until after I was picked up and conveyed to the Royal Hotel.

It thus appears that there was ample time to have stopped the train before the destruction of the carriage, if there had been a way of communication by signal between the end of the train, and the guard and driver in front. The coroner's jury have accompanied their verdict of accidental death with the recommendation of—

A luggage or break van attached to the end of each express train, as an additional security to the passenger carriages, and to obviate the dangers arising from the great oscillation of the last carriage; and they would also recommend that some mode of communication should be adopted between each carriage and the guard in charge, as the fatal result of the present accident might have been avoided if such had been the case.

The obvious objection to this suggestion is, that timid passengers would be perpetually raising false alarms. A guard at the end of the train would have all under his eye, and by a very easy mechanical contrivance communicate the occurrence of any accident to the driver. He might also have the means of casting off any carriage from the train upon any necessity.

As for the recommendation of a luggage-van at the end of trains, to steady them and protect the last carriage, why propose so clumsy a machinery for the purpose? Why not require companies to provide two carriage-shields, expressly constructed for the purpose, with the weight low, and all possible elasticity, one to be placed between the engine and the train, the other at the end? The luggage-van is a very defective makeshift. As well on board a ship might the passengers' baggage be used as fenders. Setting humanity and what is due to the public safety out of the question, companies would in the long-run find it good economy to go to the small expenses of the precautionary measures recommended, for one accident costs them much more than the means of preventing it would have done. Another guard, stationed at the end of the train, would have cost the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company a few shillings a week, and saved them the destruction of a carriage and other damage.

But we shall not see the necessary precautions adopted till more mischief has been done, and more lives sacrificed to the make-shift, and penny-wise, pound-foolish-system. By land and water the recklessness is the same, and until some scores of people have been dashed to pieces on railways, and some hundred passengers drowned at sea for want of boats, we shall not see the watch at the end of the trains or the paddle-box boats adopted.

QUALIFICATION FOR COUNTY AND BOROUGH MEMBERS.—By 1st and 2nd Vict. cap. xlviii. sec. 1, the county Member must, for his own use, be entitled to an estate in lands, or to personal estate, of the clear value or income of £600 per annum; he may be either absolutely entitled, or entitled for his own life, or for the life of any other person or persons, or for a term of years, of which not less than thirteen shall be unexpired. A like qualification, but of £300 per annum, is required for city or borough. Sec. 3. Candidates may be required, by any two registered electors, either at the time of election, or at any time before the day named in the writ of summons, to make a formal declaration as to their qualifications.

THE RECENT DECISION OF THE PEEBLES SHIRE REGISTRATION COURT, rejecting a hundred and forty-four faggot votes, has been all but reversed. The sheriffs of Roxburgh, Berwick, Selkirk, and Peebles, have an appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of any one of their number, and hence the above result. The appeal court sat for three days. The whole of the cases were not gone into—two or three being held to rule large numbers; but with the exception of forty-three voters holding on life-rent of the Earl of Traquair's property of Howford, almost the whole of the electors struck off the roll by the sheriff of Peebles have been restored. Mr. Mackenzie's seat may, therefore, be regarded as certain.

ANTI-GOLD LAW LEAGUE.—Several gentlemen who take a deep interest in the currency question have formed an association under the above name, which is to meet in congress for the first time this week in the metropolis. It will be attended by gentlemen from all parts of the country. The congress is expected to sit for several days, and will probably commence its labours on Thursday next. Several of the gentlemen who are to be present and take part in the proceedings are members of respectable banking firms in the provinces, and others are partners in mercantile houses of high standing. There are, we are told, some differences of opinion among them as to the precise footing on which the currency of the country ought to be placed, but all are agreed in the propriety of an immediate and entire repeal of the Bank Restriction Act of 1844. The great majority are for a recurrence to a paper currency and the re-issue of one pound notes.

WRITS FOR BRIBERY are said to have been issued by the legal agents of the Hon. Craven Berkeley against several of the most active supporters of Sir Willoughby Jones.—*Cheltenham Looker-on.*

THE NEWCASTLE DEPUTATION TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER waited upon that gentleman on Tuesday, at Hickleton, near Doncaster. The speakers were at great pains to show that the trade of their district was in a sound state, and that they were moved rather by a consideration of the difficulties which might happen if the stringency of the London money-market should increase, than by any actual injury which had been sustained. The deputation admitted that the conduct of the Bank of England towards the commercial interests of Newcastle had been marked by great liberality and judgment. They were only anxious now to inform the Ministry, through the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the consequences would be if a crisis similar to that in April last should be brought about; a contingency which could only be averted by some modification of the Banking Act. Sir Charles Wood told the deputation, that, in his opinion, there was no just cause for the apprehensions which they entertained. The Bank of England had not limited its discounts; neither, he believed, had the Directors any intention to limit accommodation as they had done in April. Any relaxation of the Bank Act could only be effected by Parliament, and was not a question which Ministers could decide; neither was it in the department of the Executive to counsel the Bank as to what amount of paper they should discount. Sir Charles concluded by a polite expression of his willingness at all times to receive and consider the opinions of the commercial world on any question affecting their interests.

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT.—"Notwithstanding the general depression," says a circular just issued by Messrs. Gibson, Ord, and Co., of Manchester, "we have had a marked improvement in our home trade during the past fortnight; and although not to the extent usually experienced at this season, it gives evidence of returning prosperity. We may also mention that the orders received by the last steamer from America are large."

In the corn-market on Monday, there was a further decline, and prices were from 4s. to 5s. below the rates of that day week.

THE LEICESTER PROPRIETARY SCHOOL, an institution founded on the most liberal principles for the purpose of supplying a superior secular education to the youth of the town and neighbourhood, for want of support, is to be given up at Christmas next. It afforded accommodation for 300 boys. The building is to be sold for the liquidation of liabilities and the benefit of the shareholders.

CULTIVATION OF COTTON IN AUSTRALIA.—We understand that it is contemplated to send out a party of from fifty to a hundred agricultural families to Australia before the close of this year, under the superintendence of an experienced cotton planter from the United States. Should they reach their destination, as they likely would, by the month of April next, it is calculated that they would be able to gather the crop by the end of next year.—*Manchester Examiner.*

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—We are happy to learn that in the course of about six weeks from the present time the electric telegraph will be completed between London and the North.—*Leeds Mercury.*

ELIM CHAPEL, FETTER-LANE.—On Thursday, in consequence of an order made by Aldermen Hooper and Johnson for the immediate suppression of the nuisance caused by the breaking up of the vaults and coffins underneath this chapel, a number of workmen were employed in laying concrete over the ground, breaking the roof, and stopping up all holes to prevent all further escape of effluvia or obnoxious gas, which has been so prejudicial to the health and comfort of the surrounding inhabitants.—*Globe.*

LORD COURTENAY'S APPOINTMENT.—Lord Courtenay, we hear, is appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Poor-law Commission.—*Western Times.*

MR. MORE O'FERRALL is to be the new Governor of Malta. He is the first civilian appointed to that Government—a change that has been long desired by the inhabitants.

YARMOUTH ELECTION.—It is confidently stated, by the friends of Mr. Goldsmid, that they entertain no doubt respecting the probable success of the petition against the return of the sitting Members. It is a prevalent opinion that Lord Lennox will retire at once.—*Bury Post.*

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Demands of the Age upon the Church. By George Dawson, A.M.—*Lord's Expositor of the Apocalypse.*—*Preachers, Pastors, and Bishops.*—*Sacred Geology; or, The Scriptural Age of the World's Creation Maintained.*—*Neander's History of the Christian Religion.* Vol. I.—*A Plea for Schools.* By J. G. Symons.—*The Protector: a Vindication.* By J. H. Merle D'Aubigné, D.D.—*Christ's Commission to his Disciples.* By Wm. Peckey, A.M.—*A Voice from Heaven.* By Philip Cater.—*The Genuineness of the Gospels.* By Professor Norton. Vols. I. and II.—*Christianity.* By A. Coquerel. Translated by D. Davison.—*The Crisis of Popular Education.* By Professor Hoppus.—*Baptist Manual, 1847.*—*The Portrait of Prince Charles.* By Velasquez.—*The Church as it is; or, The Forlorn Hope of Slavery.* By Parker Pillsbury.—*The Fruits of the Spirit.* By W. H. Elliott.—*The Portraiture of a Christian Lady.*—*Romanism at Rome.* By the Hon. J. W. Percy.—*The Rock of Israel.*—*Christianity in its Power.* By Dr. Morison.—*The Apostles' Creed.* By Slee.—*Manual of Public Health, &c.*—*Sparks from the Anvil.* By Elihu Burritt.—*History of the Bank of England.* Two vols. By Francis.—*Patriots of Italy.* By Stanford.—*Speech of E. Horsman, Esq., on the Bishopric of Manchester Bill.*—*Relief Principles.* By Craig.—*Tracts for the Tribulation.* Vol. I.—*Drawing Room Magazine.* September.—*Free Church Magazine.* September.—*Lowe's Edinburgh Magazine* from the commencement.—*Fyfe's Reply to Professor Bush's Anastasis.*—*Athanasius: a Dramatic Poem.* By E. F. Roberts.—*Explanations regarding the Establishment of the United Industrial Schools, Edinburgh.*

LITERATURE.

Christ our Example as a Witness for the Truth. A Sermon, preached at the Independent Chapel, Gloucester, April 12, 1847, before the Half-yearly Assembly of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Congregational Union, and published at its request. By GEORGE WOOD, B.A., Minister of Zion Chapel, Bristol. Pp. 38. London: Snow.

In a modest preface the author expresses a hope that his production "will receive the indulgence usually granted to a first publication, especially when it is remembered that with the exception of a very small portion, it was written nearly four years ago, and in the first year of the author's ministry." Seldom have we met with a discourse, published under such circumstances, less dependent on them for a favourable judgment. There are indications of a habit and a power of thought that suggest a pleasing hope as to the future career of the author. The sentiments are sound and important, and the style is remarkably free from the vices which usually disfigure maiden publications.

The subject is as seasonable as it is important in itself. The text is taken from John xviii. 37, from which the preacher illustrates the character of Christ as a witness for the truth, instancing his ardent zeal, uniform consistency, adaptation to the age and country in which he lived, faithfulness and constancy, meekness and benevolence. It will thus be seen that the temper in which testimony for truth should be borne receives consideration as well as the duty of bearing it, a point not always sufficiently regarded. We should like to give some extracts, but must be contented with a few sentences, well worthy of regard from the truth which they express:—

"We must also have intelligent faith in order to be strong. If our grasp of the truth be feeble, our testimony for it will be feeble too. If we are governed by impulses, we shall testify by impulses, and our testimony will be of little worth; for while intelligence grows the more, by exertion, impulse is weakened by its own action, and soon wears itself out. The strength of a united body consists more in the intelligent convictions of its members, than in their numbers. A hundred men knowing their principles will be more powerful than a thousand who are ignorant. It is truth which has power in the world; and we must have the truth dwelling in us, if we wish to be powerful on its behalf."—P. 31.

We commend the sermon to our readers. The wealthy might do well in circulating it. In many quarters its instructions are needed, and might be useful.

Letters by a Labourer. London: Smith, Fleet-street.

THERE are some very good things in this pamphlet; but we can by no means praise the whole. It breathes a spirit of servility and narrowness which the age is fast outgrowing. The labourers of England are not likely soon to learn the lesson, "especially thank God for the aristocracy of England!" The writer abhors Chartist views, and thinks lying in bed far better than caring about political privileges. This is paltry and pitiful twaddling; and we are sorry it disfigures pages of excellent advice.

Grave Questions for the Consideration of the Government and the People, of the Churchman and Dissenter, of the Promoters of State Grants and their Opponents, &c. London: Ward and Co.

A WELL-REASONED, well-written, and well-timed pamphlet. It is a useful weapon to be handled in these times of ecclesiastical conflict, and will tell with force upon many prelatical and political skull-caps.

Anecdotes of the Church of Rome in the Nineteenth Century. London: Baynes, St. John's-square.

A PAMPHLET of facts, and those stirring ones.

The Evidences of the Genuineness of the Gospel. By ANDREWS NORTON, late Professor of Sacred History, Harvard University. In two volumes. Second Edition. London: John Chapman.

THIS is a very learned and elaborate treatise; imbued, indeed, with the prejudices and partialities of Unitarian views, but calculated to prove, in the hands of a judicious reader, a very valuable compendium of important matter.

Stammering considered with Relation to the Management of the Breath, with a Plan for its Remedy, and Practical Observations. By the Rev. P. W. BRYAN. London: Madden, Leadenhall-street.

THERE are many to whom this very little pamphlet will prove a real benefit.

A New French Grammar, according to the Standard of the French Academy. By DESIRE PONTET. London: Houlston and Stoneman.

THIS appears to us a very compact and complete handbook, treating much of those most difficult parts of the French language—the conversational idiom. It is worthy of being known.

Philosophy of Geology. By A. C. U. JOBERT. London: Simpkin and Marshall.

THIS work, originally written partly in French, aims to establish the principle that the consecutive phenomena of geology are not the result of any eternal law of revolution so much as of the special interpositions of Almighty Providence. The treatise indicates great intelligence and deserves perusal.

The Upland Hamlet, and other Poems. By SPENCER T. HALL. London: Orr and Co.

WE do not know if this volume will be of the class which men, gods, and booksellers will praise, but we fear not. There are in it, however, some very pleasing passages, and the tone is that of moral health.

Confirmation: the True and the False. A Sermon by W. LEASK. Snow.

THIS prolific writer is accumulating perpetual memorials of a life of laborious industry. This pamphlet is worthy of his pen.

The Constitution of the Apostolic Churches. By Rev. C. RICHARDS, Alnwick. Jackson and Co.

THIS is a clear and well-adjusted statement of Dissenting principles.

GLEANINGS.

The Judge in the Bloomsbury County Court has decided that a person may decline to be examined as a witness till the sum allowed by the scale has been paid him.

If Christian nations were nations of Christians, all war would be impossible and unknown amongst them.—*Soame Jenyns.*

So great has been the mortality in Austrian Galicia, from disease and famine, that the wages of day labourers are said to have risen fourfold.

What is generally considered as constituting a horsepower is a power sufficient to raise 130 pounds 100 feet in one minute.

The *Cork Examiner* states that Father Mathew is to proceed, early next spring, to America.

In reference to the complaint that some of the postage labels wouldn't stick, a correspondent of the *Times* says:—"Damp both sides of the label, by drawing it gently through the lips, or otherwise, thus swelling both sides of the paper alike, and there will be no difficulty in making them adhere."

It is calculated that the total number of Jews spread over the surface of the globe is 6,000,000 of souls. Of these 180,000 are in the enjoyment of civil rights, viz., 30,000 in the United States of America, 50,000 in Holland, 10,000 in Belgium, and 90,000 in France. In England, 20,000 are as yet incompletely emancipated.

Lord Dalhousie, the newly-appointed Governor-General, is reported to have said that his business in India would be, "not to carry on war there, but to send home cotton:" a sentiment worthy the representative of a great commercial nation.

The *Liverpool Lion* mentions, among the failures little talked about, that of Prince Albert as a hatter.

It is stated (says the *Hull Advertiser*) that a bill will be introduced into Parliament to enable her Majesty to appoint "Courts of Honour," to which questions are to be referred at present involving a resort to the duel.

An American astronomer, named Bond, is of opinion that he has seen at least one satellite, and perhaps two, of the newly-discovered planet, Neptune.

It is supposed that the value of nets, masts, sails, &c., lost during the last two months, by herring boats, between Orkney and Aberdeen, amounts to £10,000.

A CURIOUS ITEM.—The following was actually an item in a lawyer's bill sent in for services rendered to Mr. Grenville Berkeley's committee during the last election for West Gloucester:—"To injury done by horse while riding home in the cause, £25."—*Bristol Times.*

Two adjoining caverns have been discovered midway between Chapel-en-le-Frith and Buxton, Derbyshire. The spars, crystallisations, and stalactites pendant from the roof in the larger cave are very beautiful, while in a chink is a huge fossil jaw-bone, with teeth, perfectly hard and entire.

The *Boston Post* states that there was to have been a great meeting of Smiths on Boston Common, in March last, to ascertain what branch of the family fell heir to a certain property in England; but the meeting was adjourned, as the place was not large enough to hold the numbers anxious to attend.

The following is a remarkable announcement:—"Most extraordinary express ever run on this continent: 4,900 miles by land and water, for the *New York Sun* exclusively, at an enormous expense."

BLACKBERRY JELLY.—Blackberries (which are now in season) make a delicious jelly, of finer flavour than that of any other fruit. It is made in the same manner as currant jelly.

An American sailor being summoned to give his testimony, was questioned by the judge as to his religious creed. Judge: Are you an Episcopalian? Sailor, looking with surprise at such a singular word, and taking it to be some kind of fish, said, in what water does he swim? Judge: You are very stupid. Are you a Catholic? Sailor: No, thank'ee. Are you a Methodist? Sailor: No. What are you, then? Sailor: Why, if I must tell you the truth, I am captain of the fore-top.

FOUR KINDS OF READERS.—Readers have been divided into four classes. The first may be compared to an hour-glass, their reading being as the sand—it runs in and it runs out, and leaves not a vestige behind. A second class resemble a sponge, which imbibes everything, and returns it nearly in the same state, only a little dirtier. A third class may be likened to a jelly-bag, which allows all that is pure to pass away, and retains only the refuse and the dregs. The fourth class are like the slave in the diamond mines at Golconda, who, casting aside all that is worthless, preserves only the pure gem.

WARNING TO BACHELORS.—A worthy couple, who reside in the neighbourhood of Bishop Auckland, are accustomed to share between them the somewhat onerous duty of collecting at night their numerous offspring. As soon as the clock tolls the hour of repose, out the good man sallies, up the highways and byways, in quest of his erratic progeny. The task of his wife is to receive them at home, to reckon them, and marshal them to roost. On a recent occasion, on his return home, after what he had supposed a

successful expedition, the poor man was met at the door by his better half, who thus reported progress:—"It is of o' no use; thou mun out again, for I've been to reckon the bairns, and there's now but thirteen in bed."

A CURE FOR SLANDER.—Mr. Rowland Hill, on being told that it was expected he should take notice of some unhandsome things which had been publicly said of him, said that he did not consider it necessary to enter into any vindication of himself; and he added:—"I have now lived a great many years in the world, and have passed through much of evil report and good report, and I have arrived at this conclusion—that no man can possibly do me any harm except myself."—*Poynder's Literary Extracts* (New Series.)

THE LATE MR. WALTER OF THE "TIMES."—When George IV. ascended the throne, Mr. Walter had reached his 44th year; and the most extensive review of personal history scarcely presents a single instance of any man in whom there existed, as in him, an entire union of the wisdom and circumspection which accompanies age with the strong passions, vivacity, and activity of early youth. No one moved about more than he did; but he was not impelled to the indulgence of locomotive habits by any childish impatience of restraint. His activity did not result from any series of temporary impulses, but from a sense of duty, which his position and his previous life had imposed. Within certain limitations it might be said that he preferred an interview to a letter. In his intercourse with total, or even comparative strangers, he—being a cautious man of the world—liked to communicate through third parties—through the agency of the half-dozen professional gentlemen who were respectively at the heads of the several departments which he himself governed in chief. But with those whom he admitted to his acquaintance he generally conversed rather than corresponded; he therefore largely patronised every mode of conveyance that served to bring him into contact with those whom he desired to see, or to escape from the bores who desired to see him. Men incapable of understanding his character would exclaim, "Strange man that he is—no sooner settled steadily at his business in the city than he is off to the west end, no one knows about what; then back in the middle of the night for an hour or two, and the next morning at sunrise away to Bearwood." At one moment tempted from home by the stirring calls of business, the next invited to return by the recollection of past happiness and the hope of future enjoyment. An almost consuming zeal for the improvement of the *Times* newspaper alternated with his passion for planting and pruning, creating artificial lakes and undulating lawns. At night, seated in the editorial chair, directing the pens that made the popular voice of England heard in every court of the continent, spending his strength in the foul atmosphere of the city, and the exhausting labours of a newspaper office; in a few hours afterwards, however, the carol of the lark and "incense-breathing morn" restored his faded faculties, and the same hand now wielded a woodman's axe which a short time previously had been guiding the greatest political engine in Europe.—*Times.*

A CURIOUS WILL.—The *Courier des Etats Unis* gives an account of a singular will left by a wealthy notary in Paris, about twenty-five years since, and which is yet in course of fulfilment. His greatest pleasure in life had been to gather his numerous friends around his table, and treat them splendidly, being generous and a good liver, and he conceived the notion of perpetuating these social gatherings after his death. Accordingly, by his will he instituted an annual banquet for twenty of his chosen friends, appropriating to the purpose the sum of 2,000*fr.* The details of the feast were strictly enjoined, directing the expense always to be 100*fr.* a head. The memory of the deceased was to be toasted, and the subject of conversation to be as friendship or politeness might dictate. The feast was to be inviolably the same, twenty-one plates to be always set (one for himself as perpetual head of the table), and the 2,000*fr.* to be expended. The first year the twenty friends were all there, but year after year they were removed by death, until in twenty years they were reduced to eight. These partook as customary of the feast, and toasted the memories of their departed companions. Last year, however, there were but two, who solely shared the luxurious but melancholy banquet. The two knew each other but little, and met yearly at this table. Their positions were very different. One was very rich, while misfortune had reduced the other to destitution. The rich and the poor man sat coldly opposite to each other, until, warmed by the wines, they had forgotten their different circumstances. On the 1st of June, this year, the feast again returned, but the rich man was dead, and the poor and only survivor seated himself at the table laden with silver, with its twenty-one covers and its delicious viands. There he sat the victim of poverty, subjected to all privations, pervaded by a feeling of sadness and desolation, at a magnificent banquet of 2,000*fr.* Pressed by his wants he made bold to request that the sum which was supplied to this yearly feast for himself might be appropriated to his daily sustenance. The lawyer showed him the positive clause of the will, which he was compelled to see executed to the letter. The poor man retired in sadness, thinking how many days he would be obliged to go without a dinner, while once a year he was compelled to be surfeited with a feast prepared for twenty-one persons, and valued at 2,000*fr.* A singular piece of folly truly.

SAGACITY OF THE CROW.—A few days ago the attention of several persons was excited at St. Ives by an unusual noise made by a crow which had built her nest and hatched her young in the chimney of an uninhabited house near the Wesleyan Chapel in that town. On examination it appeared that a cat had discovered the young birds, and was trying to dislodge them; but every time puss put her head into the chimney the crow pounced upon her hindside, and then flew off to a neighbouring chimney. Ther row, perceiving that she was unable singly to put the enemy to flight, flew to the tower of the Church and brought seven others, which proceeded to assail the cat in the way before described, until she was so severely wounded as to be obliged to retreat, minus pretty much of her fur and bleeding profusely.—*West Briton.*

NICE CALCULATION.—M. Lewenhoeck, in his work on the microscope, says that the mite makes 5,000 steps in a second. Each leaf on a tree has a colony of insects grazing on it like oxen on a meadow.

HUMANE BUTCHERY.—The Albany butchers, it is said, now administer ether to the animals they are about to slaughter.—*Toronto Banner.*

COLOUR OF THE STARS.—Some undefined circumstance in the constitution of the celestial bodies produces the effect of their exhibiting not only a different degree, but a different kind, of lustre. Their light is by no means uniform; the ray of Sirius differs not merely in intensity, but in kind, from that of Vega; that is perceptible in this country, but in those favoured regions where the atmosphere is more pure, where less of humidity and haze exist, the difference is striking, even to the naked eye—"one star differing from another in glory." One star shines as an emerald, while another glows as a ruby, adorning the win-

ter's sky with a rich variety of sparkling gems, differing not more in size than they do in hue or brilliancy. This circumstance of variation of colours characterises the double stars; and it is remarkable, that sometimes, when one of these stars is of one marked colour, its companion is of another. There are many instances in which a red and green star are associated, or a yellow with a blue. This may be the result of optical delusion, when the stars are of different degrees of brilliancy; as the eye has a tendency, when gazing on any bright colour, to endow fainter objects near it with the opposite colour as a relief; but this is not always borne out, as many instances occur in which couples, in precisely similar situations, display no such contrast. Sir John Herschell was at first inclined to the opinion that a diversity of colour did inherently exist in each star; but he has subsequently appeared more inclined to attribute the phenomenon to some circumstances connected with the beholder.

It has been suggested that, as there is a deficiency in the bean, turnip, and potato crops this year, advantage should be taken of the prodigious quantity of acorns and of haws with which our oaks and thorns are everywhere laden. From a single large oak tree as much as twelve bushels of acorns may be gathered, which will be sufficient to feed one porker without any other food: haws are an excellent provision for pigs, the value of which is well known. With proper attention to the gathering and preserving of these articles, which are generally sacrificed to the nuisance of hares and rabbits, many hundred thousand of pounds may be saved throughout the kingdom.

THE SULPHUR MOUNTAINS OF ICELAND.—At the foot of an elevation, in a hollow formed by a bank of clay and sulphur, steam rushed with great force and noise from among the loose fragments of rocks. Ascending still higher, we came to a ridge composed entirely of sulphur and clay, joining two summits of the mountain. Here we found a much greater quantity of sulphur than on any other part of the surface we had gone over. It formed a smooth crust, from a quarter of an inch to several inches in thickness: the crust was beautifully crystallised. Immediately beneath it we found a quantity of loose granular sulphur, which appeared to be collecting and crystallising as it was sublimed along with the steam. Sometimes we met with clay of different colours—white, red, and blue—under the crust; but we could not examine this place to any depth, as the moment the crust was removed, steam came forth, and proved extremely annoying. We found several pieces of wood, which were probably the remains of planks that had been formerly used in collecting the sulphur, small crystals of which partially covered them. There appears to be a constant sublimation of this substance; and were artificial chambers constructed for the reception and condensation of the vapours, much of it might probably be collected. As it is, there is a large quantity on the surface; and, by digging, there is little doubt that great stores may be found. Such is the usual origin of native sulphur—a substance of greater commercial value to a country like Britain than the most of our readers may imagine. It is employed for making gunpowder, sulphuric acid—which is indispensable to so many manufacturing processes—cinnabar, and for a variety of other purposes in the arts, as well as being used medicinally—requiring, altogether, an annual supply little short of 50,000 tons.—*Sir George Mackenzie.*

BIRTHS.

Feb. 8, at Onerva, Manjoi, South Pacific, the wife of Mr. G. GILL, missionary of the London Missionary Society, of a son.
Sep. 17, the lady of G. FILMER, Esq., R.N., of Kingston-crescent, Portsea, of a son, still-born.
Sep. 21, at Breaton, Northamptonshire, the wife of Mr. D. MARTIN, minister, of a son.
Sep. 24, the wife of Mr. SAMUEL MARTIN, minister of Westminster Chapel, of a son.
Sep. 25, at 5, Navarino-place, Dalston, the wife of JOHN WEBB, of a son.
Sep. 26, at Winson-house, near Birmingham, the lady of JAMES WARD HOBY, Esq., of a son, still-born.
Sep. 26, at Birkenhead, the wife of Mr. FREDERICK MIAL, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Sep. 16, at Salem Chapel, Cheltenham, by the father of the bride, WILLIAM SHACKLEFORD, Esq., of that town, to ANN, second daughter of Mr. W. G. LEWIS, minister.
Sep. 21, at the Independent Chapel, Ringwood, by Mr. G. Harris, minister, Mr. W. B. BARNES, licendrap, of Upper-street, Islington, to ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of Mr. William JAMESON, builder, Ringwood.
Sep. 21, at the Poultry Chapel, London, by Mr. T. W. Davids, minister, Mr. JOHN BLONFIELD, of Halstead, to Miss FORDHAM, of Colchester.
Sep. 21, at the Old Independent Chapel, Stroud, Gloucestershire, by Mr. Henry Griffith, minister, WILLIAM SMITH, second son of SMITH, Esq., of 33, Eaton-square, London, to CATHERINE CHARLOTTE, fourth daughter of William Bentley CARTWRIGHT, Esq., of the Field, Stroud.
Sep. 21, at Greenwich-road Chapel, Greenwich, by Mr. J. Vale Mummery, of Ratcliffe, Mr. GEORGE F. GIBBINS, of Deptford, to Miss ELIZABETH FLUCK, of Tunbridge.
Sep. 23, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Peckham, ALEXANDER, son of Benjamin REED, Esq., of Stoke Newington, to SELINA, eldest daughter of William CASH, Esq., of Peckham-rye.
Sep. 23, at New Park-street Chapel, by Mr. T. Jones, minister, of Chatham, Mr. T. M. WHITTAKER, of Spencer-place, Blackheath, to ELIZABETH, youngest daughter of William POWELL, Esq., Herne Cottage, Dulwich.

DEATHS.

Sep. 10, at Frankfort, A.M., after a long and painful illness, in her 33rd year, GRACE, the only daughter of the late Emanuel AGUILAR, of Hackney, and author of several popular works relating to Jewish literature, &c.
Sep. 20, in his 64th year, ROBERT EMLYN LOFFT, Esq., of Troston-hall, near Bury St. Edmunds, eldest son of the late Capell Lofft, Esq., of the same place.
Sep. 21, at Torquay, aged 83, Vice-Admiral Sir CHARLES DASHWOOD, K.C.B., and G.C. Tower and Sword.
Sep. 21, of consumption, aged 23, HELEN, the beloved wife of James RAWLINSON, of Rose-hill, Crowthorne, Lancashire, at the residence of Mr. D. Thompson, minister, Great Torrington, Devon. Her end was peace.
Sep. 22, Mrs. MARY CORDEROY, of Lambeth, in the 76th year of her age.
Sep. 22, in her 26th year, after a short illness, EMILY, wife of Mr. G. BOOTH, of Chatham, and youngest daughter of the late Mr. G. Bentliff, of Maidstone. For her "to die is gain."

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, September 24.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an Act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire.
Wesley Chapel, Walsall.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

TURNER, ABRAHAM, Huddersfield, grocer.
BANKRUPTS.
CRASKE, JOHN JOSIAH, Lowestoft, Suffolk, linen draper, October 4, November 8: solicitors, Messrs. Clowes and Co., Temple.
DYER, JOSEPH WOODFIELD, 2, Middleton-street, Clerkenwell, cheesemonger, October 6, November 11: solicitors, Messrs. Crosby and Co., Church-court, Old Jewry.

PINEGER, WILLIAM, Highworth, Wiltshire, innkeeper, October 7, November 2: solicitor, Mr. Packwood, Cheltenham.
ROSS, JAMES, Great Tower-street, City, grocer, September 30, November 8: solicitors, Messrs. Wright and Co., London-street.
STOCK, BENJAMIN, Margate, innkeeper, October 6, November 16: solicitors, Messrs. Fry and Co., Poultry.
SYMES, WILLIAM LANTHORN, Ashton-under-Lyne, grocer, October 8 and 29: solicitor, Mr. J. Brooks, Ashton-under-Lyne.
THOMPSON, THOMAS KIRBY, 91, Great Tower-street, City, wholesale grocer, October 8, November 8: solicitors, Messrs. Shearman and Slater, 23, Tower-street.
TOWNSEND, THOMAS SALE, and **TOWNSEND, WILLIAM**, Liverpool, drapers, October 7, November 1: solicitors, Messrs. Cornthwaite and Co., Old Jewry, London; and Mr. Pemberton, Liverpool.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.

CLEGHORN, JAMES, and **CLEGHORN, JOHN**, Edinburgh, woollen drapers, October 2 and 30.
GEMMELL, WILLIAM, and **GEMMELL, THOMAS**, Glasgow, merchants, September 27, October 16.
GREIG, JOHN HENRY, Edinburgh, writer and insurance broker, September 27, October 18.
M'GILVERAY, ALEXANDER, Paisley, baker, September 28, October 19.
LANG, JAMES, and **Co.**, Greenock, merchants, October 1 and 25.
SHAW, WILLIAM, and **SHAW, JAMES PARKER**, of Dundee, merchants, September 29, October 20.

DIVIDENDS DECLARED.

William Frederick Cowper, Benjamin Farrer Cowper, and **Paul Edwin Cowper**, Darlington, linen drapers, final div. of 6½d.; at 57, Grey-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on any Saturday after Oct. 2.
William Jane Geach, St. Columb Major, auctioneer, first and final div. of 5s. 7½d.; at Paul-street, Exeter, on and after Oct. 11.
Richard Bosustow, Redruth, grocer, first div. of 6s.; at Paul-street, Exeter, on and after Oct. 11.

Tuesday, Sept. 28.

BANKRUPTS.

BUGGELN, MARTIN (otherwise **ANTHONY SELB**), Liverpool, victualer, October 15, Nov. 12: solicitors, Mr. Kirk, Symond's-inn, London; and Mr. Parsons, Liverpool.
DAVIES, JAMES GRIFFITHS, Manchester, glass dealer, October 14, November 4: solicitors, Messrs. Reed and Langford, Friday-street, Cheapside, London; and Messrs. Sale and Co., Manchester.

HALSTEAD, THOMAS, late of Lower Smithfield, but now of 8, Arundel-street, Strand, publican, October 8, Nov. 8: solicitor, Mr. G. Gates, Theobald's-road.
HITCHCOCK, WILLIAM HENRY, CONNOR, WILLIAM, and HITCHCOCK, JOHN ENOCH, 110½, Broadwall, Blackfriars-road, saw-mill proprietor, October 8, Nov. 9: solicitor, Mr. Solomon, Chester-terrace, Borough-road.
MACKINTOSH, DONALD, Russell-street, Bermondsey, tanner, October 9, Nov. 18: solicitors, Messrs. Cox, Sons, and Walrod, Sise-lane, Bucklersbury.

WILBORE, MEADOWS MONTAGUE, 23, Newcastle-street, Strand, and of Cour de Guise, Calais, importer and manufacturer of surface-coloured and ornamental papers, October 11, Nov. 8: solicitor, Mr. Sorrell, Fenchurch-buildings.
WILLIAMS, SAMUEL, Sloane-square, Chelsea, brush maker, Oct. 12, Nov. 11: solicitor, Mr. Lloyd, Milk-street, Cheapside.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.

AIKMAN, JAMES, Edinburgh, grocer, September 29 and October 29.
GILLESPIE, THOMAS, Glasgow, tavern keeper, October 4 and 25.
PATON, ADAM, and **PATON, JOHN**, Stewarton, Ayrshire, timber merchants, October 2 and 22.
WEDDELL, WILLIAM, Edinburgh, draper, October 5 and 27.
WILSHIRE, MICHAEL, and **PHILLIPS, JOSEPH**, Edinburgh, merchants, October 5 and 26.

DIVIDENDS.

John Judd, Brynmawr, Breconshire, shopkeeper, div. of 4s.; at 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol, October 13, or any subsequent Wednesday—**Joseph Piddwell**, of Falmouth, furnishing ironmonger, first div. of 4s. 6d.; at Paul-street, Exeter, any Tuesday after October 6—**John William Harvey**, of Ottery St. Mary, Devonshire, grocer, first div. of 2s. 6d.; at Paul-street, Exeter, any Tuesday after October 6—**Robert Loosemore**, Tiverton, Devonshire, scrivener, first div. of 6d.; at Paul-street, Exeter, any Tuesday after October 6—**Joseph Shepherd** and **Benjamin Shepherd**, Exeter, wine merchants, first div. of 4s.; at Paul-street, Exeter, any Tuesday after October 6—**Henry Lovatt**, and **William Hinde Larkman**, Corran, Liverpool, merchants, first div. of 4s.; at 11, Eldon-chambers, South John-street, Liverpool, October 7, or any subsequent Thursday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols ..	86½	85½	86½	86	85½	85½
Ditto for Account ..	86½	86½	86½	85½	86	85½
3 per cent. Reduced ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
New 3½ per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	86½
Long Annuities	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bank Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
India Stock	—	236	—	236	—	—
Exchequer Bills	5 p	7 p	4 p	8 p	7 p	3 p
India Bonds	3 dis	—	—	—	—	7 dis

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian	92	Mexican	19½
Brazilian	83	Peruvian	34½
Buenos Ayres	37½	Portuguese 5 per cent. ..	81
Columbian	16	Ditto converted	25
Danish	84½	Russian	107½
Dutch 2½ per cent.	55½	Spanish Active	21½
Ditto 4 per cent.	90	Ditto Passive	4½
French 3 per cent.	77½	Ditto Deferred	17½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester ..	123	London & Croydon Trunk ..	9
Blackwall	6	London and Greenwich ..	—
Bristol and Exeter	74	Manchester and Leeds	—
Eastern Counties	17½	Midland Counties	116
Eastern Union	—	Ditto New Shares	44½
Edinburgh and Glasgow ..	57½	Manchester and Birm'g ..	—
Great North of England ..	229	Midland and Derby	90
Great Western	107	Norfolk	105
Ditto Fifth	63	North British	28½
Ditto Fifths	—	South Eastern and Dover ..	34
London & North-Western ..	164	South Western	61
Ditto Quarter Shares	27	York and Newcastle	34½
London and Brighton	47½	York and North Midland ..	78

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Sept. 27.

Our market for Wheat was 2s. to 3s. per qr. lower on Friday, and the supply of English Wheat having increased to-day, we had a further decline of 2s., making together fully 5s. per qr. since Monday last. Foreign Wheat met very few buyers, though offered 2s. to 3s. lower. English Flour was 3s. per sack, and Foreign 3s. to 4s. per barrel cheaper, and very slow sale. Fine new Barley maintained its price, being scarce, but inferior sorts were taken off very slowly. Malt continues dull. New Beans were more plentiful, and 1s. to 2s. cheaper. Fine Peas quite as dear. With a moderate supply of Oats, good qualities went off pretty readily to consumers, on rather higher terms. Linseed Cakes in good demand. Indian Corn was held rather higher, but sales limited. The current prices are under.

Wheat, Red	40 to 48	Peas, Hog	40 to 42
Fine	44 to 50	Maple	42 to 44
White	40 to 43	Boilers	44 to 47
Fine	46 to 53	Beans, Ticks	35 to 37
Flour, per sack (Town) ..	40 to 45	Pigeon	48 to 50
Barley	27 to 34	Harrow	42 to 46
Malt	32 to 34	Oats, Feed	21 to 23
Malt, Ordinary	63 to 66	Fine	24 to 28
Pale	54 to 58	Poland	22 to 27
Rye	27 to 34	Potato	24 to 26

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR

SEPT. 25.

Wheat	49s. 6d.	Wheat	57s. 10d.
Barley	32 1	Barley	36 5
Oats	22 5	Oats	26 3
Itye	33 2	Rye	34 11
Beans	42 11	Beans	50 6
Peas	41 1	Peas	41 7

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Sept. 27.

As the general quality of this description of stock was very inferior, the demand for the best Scots, &c., was steady, and, in some instances, the currencies paid on Monday last were obtained by the salesmen—the best Beef realizing 4s. 6d. per 8 lbs. without difficulty; otherwise, the Beef trade was in a sluggish state, and the prices receded quite 2d. per 8 lbs. At the close of business a clearance was not effected. The Mutton trade was firm, particularly for the best old Downs—the supply of which was small—at the prices quoted on this day's night. The best old Downs sold at 5s. 4d. per 8 lbs. The inquiry for Lamb was heavy, and this is the last occasion this year—as the season is now concluded—that we shall make any distinction between their prices and those of Sheep. Calves, though in full average supply, moved off steadily at late rates. Prime small Porkers commanded full prices. In other quantities of Pork comparatively little business was transacted.

Beef	3s. 0d. to 4s. 6d.	Veal	3s. 10d. to 5s. 0d.
Mutton	3 10 to 5 4	Pork	4 0 to 5 0
Lamb	4s. 4d. to 5s. 6d.		

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts	1,531	Sheep	12,590	Calves	487	Pigs	320
Monday	4,881	31,660	255	320

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Sept. 27.

Per 8 lbs. by the carcass.					
Inferior Beef 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.		Inf. Mutton 3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.			
Widdling do 2 10 to 3 2		Mid. ditto 3 10 to 4 2			
Prime large 3 2 to 3 4		Prime ditto 4 4 to 4 8			
Prime small 3 6 to 3 8		Veal 3 10 to 5 10			
Large Pork 4 0 to 4 8		Small Pork 4 10 to 5 4			
Lamb	4s. 6d. to 5s. 4d.				

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—Red Cloverseed has lately been held at advanced rates, and to-day there were no sellers of fine Bordeaux under 42s. to 43s. per cwt. in bond. The advance demanded checked the inquiry, and the business done was unimportant. Canaryseed could only be sold in retail quantities, at our quotations; and Mustardseed was very difficult of disposal. Winter Tares were taken at about former terms.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.—Our market was dull all last week, and nearly all kinds of produce sparingly dealt in. Of Irish Butter the sales on board and landed were unimportant, and the value of all sorts fully 1s. to 2s. per cwt. less than last quoted. Foreign met a sluggish and limited sale at a decline of 2s. to 4s. per cwt. Bacon.—For singled sides the demand was of a retail character, and prices lowered 2s. to 4s. per cwt.; and of bale and tierce middles, Irish and American, the same may be reported. Hams scarcely sought after, prices nominal. Lard without alteration. In Cheese a moderate business doing. Prices declining and stocks accumulating.

BREAD.—The prices of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 7½d. to 8d.; of household ditto, 6d. to 7d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday.—Large supplies of the new growth continue daily to reach our market; but although there has been rather more business doing within the last few days, still the demand is by no means equal to the supply, and prices have in consequence somewhat declined since our last quotations.

Mid. and East Kents 90s. to 126s. |

Weald of Kents 81s. to 91s. |

Sussex Pockets 80s. to 90s. |

Duty, £175,000.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The market is dull. The arrivals of Wool last week were large, including 2,395 bales from the Cape of Good Hope, 2,215 from Valparaiso, 1,700 from Port Philip, and several hundred bales from Germany, Swan River, Monte Video, &c.—Leeds, Sept. 24.—Our report of the Foreign Wool trade this week does not present any improvement upon that of the last. The market remains generally quiet, and prices steady at late quotations. The business transacted in British Wool during the past week has been very limited. Prices without alteration.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, Friday.—At the beginning of the week, the buyers easily obtained, on their limited business, this large reduction from the previous currency; but as the week advanced, and no more London failures were announced, confidence seemed gradually to come round; the transactions assume a more regular and equitable scale, and we close the week with American ½d. to ¼d. lower, and other kinds about ¼d. In Sea Islands there has not been much done, but no doubt they would also be found to have suffered in fully as large a degree as any other description. 2,000 American have been taken on speculation, and 3,000 American and 200 Surat for export. Sales to-day about 4,000 bales. 2,000 Sea Islands are declared for auction on Friday next.—Sept. 27.—The sales of Cotton to-day amount to about 2,500 bales in a very heavy market. In prices there is not any change, both holders and consumers are looking anxiously for the steam-ship Caledonia, which may be expected to arrive here to-morrow.

TALLOW, LONDON, Monday.—Although there is more inclination on the part of the chandlers to get into stock than for some weeks past, the amount of business transacted since this day's night has not been so extensive. A few sales have taken place at a trifle more money. P.Y.C. on the spot is 46s. 6d. to 46s. 9d., and for delivery, 45s. 3d. per cwt. Town Tallow is 47s. 6d. to 48s. 6d. per cwt.; rough fat, 2s. 9d. per 8 lbs.

HIDES, LEADENHALL.—Market hides, 56lb. to 64lb., 2½d. to 2½d.; ditto, 64lb. to 72lb., 3d. to 3½d.; ditto, 72lb. to 80lb., 3½d. to 3½d.; ditto, 80lb. to 88lb., 4d. to 4½d.; ditto, 88lb. to 96lb., 4½d. to 5d.; ditto, 96lb. to 104lb., 5½d. to 5½d.; Calf-skins, each, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.; Horse hides, 13s.; Polled Sheep, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.; Kent and Half-breeds, 4s. 8d. to 5s. 6d.; Downs, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; Shearlings, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 8d.; Lamb Skins, 1s. 7d. to 2s. 6d.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Sept. 25.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Old Meadow 60s. to 75s. | Old Clover | 85s. to 105s. |

New ditto 45s. to 68s. | New ditto | 70s. to 90s. |

Straw 28s. to 33s. | | |

COAL EXCHANGE, Sept. 24.

Hetton's, 20s. 9d.; Braddy's, 20s. 6d.; Lambton's, 20s. 6d.; Hudson's, 17s. 6d.; West Hartley's, 17s. 6d. Ships arrived during the week, 429.

THE COLONIAL MARKETS.—Tuesday Evening.

SUGAR.—The trade bought 700 hds. and tierces at former rates. 350 hds. St. Lucia sold at 45s. 6d. for good to fine yellow; low to good middling fetched 37s. to 39s. 6d. per cwt. There was more doing in refined goods. Standard lumps fetched 54s. 6d., and brown grocery 53s. 6d. per cwt. 11,000 bags Mauritius, offered in auction, were chiefly sold at a reduction of 6d. to 1s. per cwt.; low yellow to good 35s. to 41s., fine 43s. to 43s. 6d., middling to fine brown 33s. to 35s. 6d., ordinary to good grey 35s. to 38s. per cwt. 3,600 bags Bengal, at auction, fetched former rates; Benares fine white 48s. to 50s. 6d., good 46s. to 47s., middling 41s. to 45s., fine soft yellow 41s. to 42s., good 38s. per cwt.

TEA.—The deliveries are 502,000 lbs. The market is firm, and there is a fair business doing.

COFFEE.—500 bags plantation Ceylon, at auction, sold at lower rates; fine fine ordinary 46s. to 50s., good ordinary 43s. to 44s., low ordinary unclean 38s. per cwt. 600 bags native Ceylon good ordinary, sold at 34s. 6d. per cwt.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

FEET—EASE IN WALKING.—HALL and CO.
 Wellington-street, Strand, near Waterloo-bridge.—The **PANUS CORIUM**, or **LEATHER-CLOTH BOOTS and SHOES**, are the softest and easiest ever worn. They yield to the action of the feet without the slightest pressure of drawing effect on the most sensitive Corns, Bunions, Gout, or tenderness from any other cause. They resemble the finest leather, and are more durable. **HALL and CO.'S SPRING BOOTS** supersede lacing or buttoning, and are a great comfort to the ankles. Their **Waterproof Portable Dresses** for Gentlemen, 21s. Ladies' Cardinal Cloaks, with Hoods, 18s., which can be carried in the pocket with convenience.

E. J. DENT'S Manufacture of WATCHES and CLOCKS is protected by three separate Patents. Ladies' elegant Gold Watches, with gold dials, and jewelled in four holes, Eight Guineas; Gentlemen's ditto, enamel dials, ten Guineas; Youth's Silver Watches, Four Guineas; substantial and accurately-going Silver Lever Watches, jewelled in four holes, Six Guineas.
DENT, 82, Strand; 33, Cockspur-street; and 34, Royal Exchange (Clock Tower Area.)

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J. SMITH, MANUFACTURING STATIONER, and ENGRAVER, 42, RATHBONE-PLACE, LONDON, begs respectfully to call the attention of the Nobility, Gentry, Managers of Public Institutions, Solicitors, Bankers, Merchants, Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, Law Stationers, Map Publishers, and others, to the above Fabric, being one of the most novel and useful articles ever submitted to the public.

For every purpose to which paper has been applied, where strength or durability is required, the Patent Vellum Cloth will prove a desideratum; and, in many instances where parchment has hitherto been used, it will be found an invaluable substitute, as it can be written upon with perfect freedom.

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Black-bordered Mourning Papers, Envelopes, and Cards. A large assortment of Wedding Envelopes, Notes, Silver Cord, &c. Intense Black Writing Ink, warranted not to corrode metallic pens; Steel and Quill Pens, &c., &c. Name Plates, &c., elegantly engraved. Letter-press and Copper-plate Printing. Stationery of every description.

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(Late Dissenters' and General).

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TABLE, No. I.

WITHOUT PARTICIPATION IN PROFITS.

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20	30	40	50	60
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 12 0	2 1 5	2 15 7	4 1 1	6 5 3

TABLE, No. II.

WITH PARTICIPATION IN PROFITS.

20	30	40	50	60
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 18 2	2 8 5	3 3 7	4 10 3	6 13 10

Assurances on Joint Lives and Survivorships, Deferred Annuities, and Endowments for Children, are granted, and Reversions and Life Interests are purchased on liberal terms.

The following are among the distinctive features of the Company:—

1. One-tenth of the entire profits is appropriated, by the Deed of Settlement, to reducing the premiums payable for assuring the lives of Dissenting and Methodist Ministers, or in other ways similarly beneficial to their families.
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By order of the Directors,

THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

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THE ANTI-BRIBERY SOCIETY.

IT is now a well-established fact, that no real Legislation can be done otherwise than by the agitation of societies. In these days, the Legislature is not the Legislature. The Houses of Parliament have become offices of registration. All the most important laws are made by the people themselves. A few men make up their minds that a particular wrong shall be redressed or a specific good deed done, and by combination and agitation, by contributions of money and mind, effect their object. When a Member of Parliament tries to accomplish any public object, by his own labour in the House of Commons, he is coughed down, or the House is counted out. When a journalist takes up a subject and makes it his hobby, he certainly has what the member has not—the opportunity of stating his case. He can spread his opinion. He can make those who agree with him already, more in earnest. He can combat and refute the objections of those who differ from him. But the impressions and convictions he produces are scattered, and evanescent, and unknown to him. He knows not his disciples, and they do not know him. The man who can merely subscribe money in favour of his opinion is powerless. But form a society; combine the labours of the Journalist in the press, of the Member in Parliament, of orators on platforms, with the money of the subscribers; work with pens and tongues in journals, pulpits, platforms, and Legislative power is created by the combination which is irresistible on the side of right.

The proceedings of the recent general election furnish many illustrations of the necessity for the labours of a society devoted to the establishment of purity of election. Bribery, treating, intimidation, nomination, and corruption, have had their saturnalia. The object of a general election is to collect the opinions of the million of electors whose will professedly makes the laws. They vote to elect men whose views embody theirs. This is the theory, and to a certain extent this is also the fact. Truth and right are such powerful things, that no system of government, whether despotic or representative, can withstand them. But certainly, in the actual representative system of this country, they have to struggle with formidable and abominable obstacles which obstruct their progress.

Various contests have thrown a hideous light upon the non-inaction abuse. Lord Stanley explained this system in the House of Commons once, when he frankly said that Whig or Tory acres were just Whig or Tory votes in the counties. Let a map be made of the island according to the estates of the four-and-twenty thousand proprietors who own it, and colour the estates according to the politics of the landlords. You will discover in this way the character of the votes of the tenants. The acres will tell you without asking the men, the tenants, or thinking of them, or acknowledging their existence. They are merely the voting machines of their farms. They are not men, they are tools. The treating and bribery practices make the lowest description of publicans and lawyers powerful in reference to the Legislature.

The Reform Act increased the squeezability of the Legislature, but it has, at the same time, increased the evils of bribery, corruption, and intimidation, which under it have assumed worse shapes than ever they did in the days of the Boroughmongers. Before the Reform Act, the corrupt were a small class in the small boroughs, generally well-off men of the corporation, who managed their corruption through an agent, for a fixed price, according to an ancient, hereditary, systematic, and well-known plan. Now, the corrupt are increased to hundreds, and thousands. They swill in taverns, they march in processions, and sell their souls, and glory in their shame. The rich man who buys a ten-pound vote, in a small borough, just buys a ten-pound vote. The system makes a man—an immortal spirit—the degraded mouth-piece, or voting machine of a ten-pound house. It is an outrage against man—the image of God—to allow the vote to be a mere political chattel, or fixture of a house, a thing which is pulled, bought, and sold by the auctioneer. Yet it is notorious that if the proprietor of the ten-pound houses rats, the tenants change their politics, the men all the while being voting utensils. The system tends to exclude from the Legislature all the men of ability in the country who are not very rich. Every man whose moral feelings revolt against the practices of the lowest class of attorneys, who will not spend many hundreds of pounds in bribing and treating, in debauching the electors into soulless drunkards, is deterred from entering the House of Commons. The attorneys in many large boroughs make sure that scarcely any man shall get in without paying black mail to them. Their traffic in seats is notorious. Cliques do what the boroughmongers did. The House of Commons is thus made a club of rich men by the present system, when it ought to be a workshop for the people.

It must never be forgotten that it is the legal expenses which cause and protect the illegal. The man who comes forward professedly to serve his country gratuitously, is confronted at the first step with a demand for two or three hundred pounds for hustings' expenses. He is treated as if he sought admission into a fashionable club, and were to receive a great benefit. Some constituencies sell themselves for donations to their charities. Many electors charge candidates with their travelling expenses. Now, we submit that the true theory of the constitution ought to be that every candidate is seeking not his own but the public interest. Candidates ought to be taken at their word, and care taken to keep their conduct close to it. The expenses ought to fall upon the persons who are served gratuitously, and not upon the men who serve gratuitously. To devolve registration expenses upon members is a great meanness. A constituency once told their member that he had sold them, and his just retort was—"Well, I have sold you, did I not buy you?" Corruption among the electors, naturally begets venality and time-serving among the members.

There is no solid principle on which we can rest short of the one embodied in the pledge of the Anti-Bribery Society—election solely on the ground of fitness. The inadequacy of the intelligence in Parliament to the wants of the empire yearly costs the people a great waste of money, the destruction of many lives, and the continuance of vast, social, moral, and spiritual evils. There must be a total suppression of the system which makes election an expense to candidates. No man ought to have to pay a single penny for a seat. The qualification ought not to be that a man is willing to spend a few thousands upon a Parliamentary speculation of being re-paid by place, by family promotions, or by downright jobs. The qualification ought to be that a man has some beneficent ideas in his head, which he wishes to embody in the laws for the good of the people. Without this qualification no man has a right to a seat. The question ought to be, not has this man £3.0 a-year, or will he spend thousands in bribing and treating, but has God made this man a lawgiver by the moral and mental gifts with which his soul is endowed? Is there good for the people in this man?

The Anti-Bribery Society originated in a suggestion recently thrown out in a series of articles embodying these views, in a periodical publication, by John Robertson, Esq., late Editor of the *London and Westminster Review*. The society has been formed to unite men of all political opinions (carefully excluding the discussion of all party questions), by subscription to the following declaration:—

"We, the undersigned, pledge ourselves hereby, to use all constitutional and legal means for the suppression of the system which makes election to the House of Commons an expense to candidates; and never to desist from our efforts until the sole qualification shall be fitness to represent the views and feelings of the constituencies."

Arrangements have been made, and will be adhered to, which effectually prevent any member from being liable beyond the amount of his subscriptions.

A Subscription of One Shilling constitutes Membership. Communications for the present may be addressed to William Jaffray, Esq., Honorary Secretary, 3, New Inn, London.

DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

AT an extraordinary Meeting of the General Body of Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Three Denominations, residing in and about the cities of London and Westminster, convened by requisition, in the Congregational Library, Blomfield-street, on the 21st of September, 1847, the following Resolution was adopted, *nemine contradicente*:—

"That the abundant harvest which has been gathered in, after a period of distressing scarcity, demands our special acknowledgment; and that it be earnestly recommended to the churches with which the members of this body are connected, to set apart an early day for public thanksgiving to the Father of mercies for this kind and seasonable interposition of his providence."

(Signed) JOSHUA RUSSELL, Chairman.
WILLIAM GROSER, Secretary.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PROMOTING THE REAL REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the Members and Friends of this Alliance will be held in the BRITISH SCHOOL-ROOMS, Cowper-street, City-road, on THURSDAY, the 30th instant, at HALF-PAST SEVEN o'clock, p.m.
EDWARD MIALI, Esq., in the Chair.

London, September 25, 1847.

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWISHAM.

THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING of the Governors will be held on TUESDAY, October 26th, at the CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, Blomfield-street, when Three Children will be elected from the following List of Candidates. To commence at ELEVEN and close at TWO o'clock precisely.

1. JENNINGS, GEORGE WILLIAM, aged 10 years, November 26, 1846; son of Rev. George Jennings, Tadley, Hants, who has six children maintained at his expense, and one son in the School.—Income not exceeding £60 per annum.—FOURTH APPLICATION.
2. MOSES, THOMAS, aged 10 years, August 4, 1847; son of Rev. W. Moses, Libanus, Brecon, who has four children maintained at his expense.—Income not exceeding £35 per annum.—THIRD APPLICATION.
3. RIDGE, JOHN, aged 1 year, September 26, 1847; son of Rev. John Ridge, of Beaufort, Brecon, who has four children maintained at his expense.—Income not exceeding £45 per annum.—THIRD APPLICATION.
4. HAYMES, E. C., aged 10 years, September 16, 1847; son of Rev. B. Haymes, Worpleston, Surrey, who has four children wholly, and two partially maintained at his expense.—One son in the School.—Income not exceeding £100 per annum.—THIRD APPLICATION.
5. AMOS, LUTHER, aged 10 years, February 9, 1847; son of Rev. George Amos, Nassington, Northamptonshire, who has seven children maintained at his expense.—Income not exceeding £80 per annum.—One son in the School.
6. DAVIES, THOMAS JAMES, aged 9 years, January 31, 1847; son of the late Rev. J. J. Davies, Tintwistle, Cheshire, whose widow has three children maintained at her expense.—Income not exceeding £50 per annum.
7. SEARLE, HENRY COOPER, aged 10 years, November 17, 1846; son of Rev. Thomas Searle, Hornchurch, Essex, who has four children maintained at his expense.—Income not exceeding £60 per annum.
8. BREESE, SAMUEL, aged 9 years, September 25, 1847; son of the late Rev. J. Breese, of Carmarthen, whose widow has three children partly, and two wholly maintained at her expense.—Income only £12 per annum, derived from the Widow's Fund and the *Evangelical Magazine*.—One son in the School.
9. RHEAD, JOHN JERARD, aged 9 years, April 20, 1847; son of Rev. William Rhead, of Bulkington, Warwickshire, who has five children maintained at his expense.—Income not exceeding £65 per annum. GEORGE ROSE, Secretary.

WEST OF ENGLAND DISSENTERS' PROPRIETARY SCHOOL, TAUNTON.

THE COMMITTEE have great pleasure in announcing that the above Establishment is now open for the reception of Pupils. Terms (including Education, School-books, Board and Washing)—For pupils under ten years of age, twenty-three Guineas; above ten years, twenty-seven Guineas; above fourteen years, twenty-nine Guineas per annum. A deduction of two Guineas on the above terms for each pupil nominated by a holder of two shares. No advance in terms during the continuance of a pupil in the school. Principal of the Institution, Rev. James Bewglass, M.A., LL.D. Further particulars respecting shares, and the admission of pupils, may be obtained from the Rev. H. Adiscott, and Rev. H. Quick, Honorary Secretaries; or the Rev. J. S. Underwood, Corresponding Secretary, Taunton.

N.B. An additional Assistant Master is wanted immediately.

THE GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY, established 1837, empowered by special Acts of Parliament, 3rd Vict., cap. 20, and 10th Vict., cap. 1; 62, King William-street, London; 21, St. David-street, Edinburgh; and 1, Cross-street, Market-street, Manchester. Capital, One Million.

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The Michaelmas Fire Renewal Receipts are now ready, and may be had on application at the head offices of the Company, or of any of its agents throughout the country.

In the Life Department the Company transacts all business relating to Life Assurances, Deferred Annuities, and Family Endowments, upon the most liberal terms consistent with sound principles and public security.

Loans granted on personal security, and the deposit of a Life Policy to be effected by the Borrower.

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